SUNDAY
December 18, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU ON SUNDAY

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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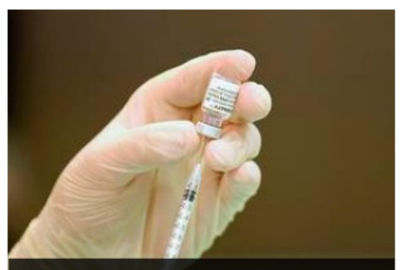

How can customised vaccines fight cancer?
FAQ » PAGE 13

Writers under pressure, says Pankaj Mishra
MAGAZINE » PAGE 3

Genes for long lifespan of trees identified
SCIENCE » PAGE 12

NEARBY

'Nikhil will contest from Ramanagaram'

BENGALURU
Incumbent MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy announced on Saturday that her son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, will contest from Ramanagaram in the 2023 elections. » PAGE 6

High Court stays FIR against Congress leaders

BENGALURU
The HC has stayed proceedings based on the FIR registered against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, and Supriya Shrinate for allegedly illegally using songs of the film *KGF Chapter 2*. » PAGE 5

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 5
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

FOMO strikes ULFA(I) youth

Outfit uses social media to recruit cadres but does not allow use of mobile phones once they join the organisation

Rahul Karmakar
TINSUKIA

Rituraj Moran was 18 when he joined the *sangathan* (organisation), a euphemism for the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), wooed by Facebook posts. Five years later, he quit the extremist group, partly disgruntled by the lack of access to the same social media platform.

Some sub-nationalist Assamese poems and similar content on Facebook had convinced Mr. Moran that Assam's future lay in an armed revolution against the "Indian colonialists" represented by the armed forces. A bit of networking drew him to a spotter of the extremist group, assigned to recruit fresh faces from villages near the coal town of Margherita in Assam's Tinsukia district bordering Arunachal Pradesh.

He soon became a member of the 82nd batch of ULFA(I) trainees in Myanmar. Life in the Arakan or 779 camp was much harder than he had imagined. Yet, what rankled a few in the 82nd batch was their inability to stay connected with friends; a ban on using mobile phones in the jungle hideout meant a divorce from the very social media platforms that had attracted them to the ULFA(I) in the first place.

Missing out: Former ultra Tutu Bora, right, says he couldn't handle isolation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Differences with lower-rung leaders of the outfit and their tendency to treat us as slaves were the primary reasons why I quit. Our inability to be in touch with the world beyond was also a factor," another surrendered extremist from a village near the oil town of Digboi said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

SC rejects Bilkis Bano's plea to review its May verdict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

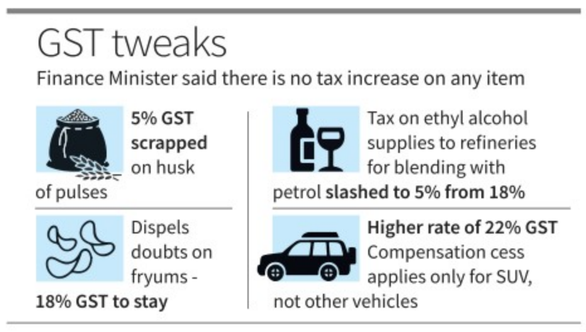
The Supreme Court on Saturday dismissed a petition by Bilkis Bano to review its May judgment, which allowed the Gujarat Government, under the State's Premature Release Policy of 1992, to consider and release prematurely 11 convicts serving life sentence for gang-raping her and murdering her family during the 2002 riots.

A Bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and Vikram Nath dismissed Ms. Bano's review petition by circulation in the chambers.

In its May 13 judgment, a Bench led by Justice Rastogi had concluded that Gujarat was the "appropriate government" under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to decide the remission of the convicts in the case.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

GST Council keeps tax rate same, but defers key reforms



Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Saturday clarified tax provisions on items ranging from fryums to sport utility vehicles (SUVs) to reduce disputes. It also approved decriminalisation of some offences but could not find the time to discuss half its agenda including the setting up of a keenly awaited GST Appellate Tribunal.

As many as three ministerial groups' reports on critical issues including the taxation regime for tobacco and gutkha businesses, the setting up a tribunal to settle disputes with taxpayers as envisaged under the GST law of 2017, and the determination of the tax treatment for online gaming, casinos and horse-racing were put on hold until the next meeting of the Council.

The council met after a gap of six months under Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Mangaluru blast accused shifted to Victoria Hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency on Saturday shifted Mohammed Shariq, the prime accused in the Mangaluru cooker blast case, to the Mahabodhi Burns Ward in Victoria Hospital here for further treatment.

Doctors, who refused to reveal any details about his treatment, confirmed that he was brought to the hospital under heavy police protection.

He had suffered 45% burns after the explosive he was carrying in a cooker exploded in an autorickshaw on the outskirts of Mangaluru on November 19.

Peenya flyover is still closed for heavy vehicles

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

It has been almost a year, but the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is still buying time to allow heavy vehicles on Goraguntepalya flyover (Peenya flyover). As a result, the movement of these vehicles under the flyover is adding to traffic woes on the busy Tumakuru Road.

On December 25, 2021, the movement of vehicles on the flyover was banned after the NHAI found slippage of three prestressed cables in one span and one in another span during a routine inspection. Initially, there were plans to prohibit the entry of vehicles for two weeks.

However, considering the safety of the motorists and the flyover, the NHAI took more time to fix the problems. The resulted has in traffic snarls. The issue was discussed in the Assembly as well.

After a gap of over 50 days, only light motor vehicles were allowed. Though the NHAI had maintained that heavy traffic will be allowed as early as possible, that has never happened.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

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Covered up: A slum near Jogeshwari along the Western Express Highway in Mumbai.

Mumbai's worst-kept secrets

The municipal corporation made haste to cover up slums and buildings under construction ahead of the visit of foreign delegates for a G-20 working group meet

Emmanual Yogini

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has "covered up" some of Mumbai's slums in a bid to hide the financial capital's economic inequalities during the G-20 meet that took place in the city last week.

Delegates from 20 countries participated in the first meeting of the Development Working Group (DWG) under India's G-20 presidency from December 13 to 16.

The civic body put up screens, hoardings and banners with the G-20 meet branding alongside the Western Express Highway, along which the delegates travelled. As a part of a "beautification drive", the BMC made sure it concealed any view of slums and buildings under construction with expansive green and white sheets. More than 50% of Mumbai's population lives in slums or cramped housing.

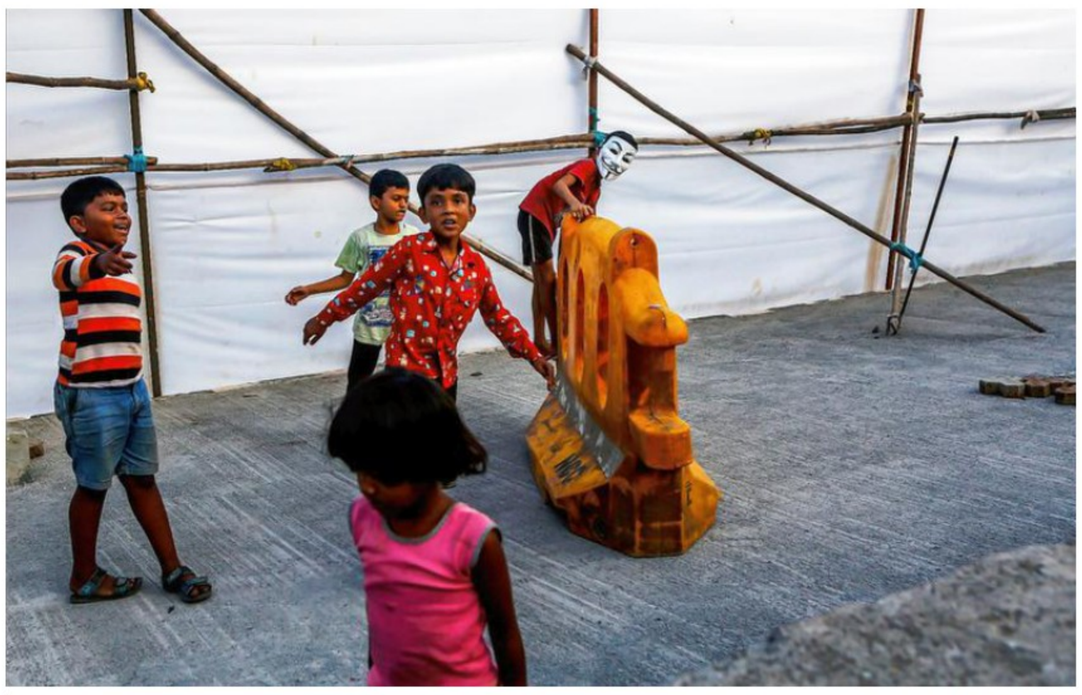
Many of the delegates visited the Kanheri caves in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park as a part of their Mumbai sightseeing programme, and hence the entire stretch of Western Express Highway was spruced up: walls were given a lick of paint and road dividers decorated with potted plants.

The focus of the G-20 meet was to support developing countries in dealing with immediate concerns relating to food, fuel and fertilizer security as well as putting in place collective action plans to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is, however, not the first time authorities have tried to hide slums and areas considered unsightly before major international events or visits by foreign dignitaries. An entire wall was erected in Ahmedabad before then U.S. President Donald Trump visited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State in 2020.

Sights unseen: Signage is used to cut off a view of Bandra slums

Blinkers on: Expansive sheets attempt to hide the ongoing construction work in Santacruz.



Time to play: Children from a slum play in a walled-off area near Khar.

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4	Demand Drafts/ PO (Issuance Charges) - at Bank Locations	Up to ₹10,000: ₹50, Above ₹10,000: ₹5/ ₹1,000 on entire amount (minimum ₹75 & maximum ₹10,000), For Senior Citizens: ₹45, Above ₹10,000: ₹5/ ₹1,000 or part thereof (minimum ₹50 & maximum ₹10,000) DD request through NetBanking up to ₹10 lakhs: ₹50 + correspondent bank charges if applicable, Third party DD up to ₹1 lakh: ₹50 + correspondent bank charges, If applicable	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
5	IMPS Charges per Transaction– Outward	Up to ₹1,000: ₹2.5/ transaction, ₹1,000 to ₹1 lakh: ₹5/ transaction, ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakhs: ₹15/ transaction	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
6	NEFT Charges per Transaction - Outward (Branch)	Up to ₹10,000: ₹2.25/ transaction, ₹10,001 to ₹1 lakh: ₹4.75/ transaction, Above ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakhs: ₹14.75/ transaction,Above ₹2 lakhs and up to ₹10 lakh: ₹24.75/ transaction	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
7	RTGS Charges per Transaction - Outward (Branch)	₹2 lakhs & above: ₹15/ transaction, For Senior Citizens ₹2 lakhs & above: ₹13.5/ transaction	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
8	Cheque Book	One multicity cheque book free/ year (20 leaves), Above free limits: ₹4/ leaf	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
9	SMS Alert Charges	₹15/ quarter (For transactions other than specified by regulatory guidelines, SMS alerts will be triggered only if the transaction value is greater than ₹5,000)	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
10	Issue of Duplicate Statements	Soft copy - Online: free, Physical copy - Branch: ₹100, Phone Banking (Non IVR): ₹75, Phone Banking (IVR), NetBanking, Mobile Banking & ATM: ₹50, For Senior Citizens - Branch: ₹50, Phone Banking (Non IVR): ₹50, Phone Banking (IVR), NetBanking, Mobile Banking & ATM: ₹30	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
11	Passbook Charges	Free passbook, Duplicate passbook issue: ₹100. For Senior Citizens: ₹90	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
12	Balance Certificate (Charges per certificate)	₹50/ certificate for balance in Savings Account and Fixed Deposit Account, ₹100/ certificate for balance in INR and the equivalent amount in USD in Savings Account and Fixed Deposit Account	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
13	Interest Certificate (Charges per Certificate)	₹100/ request, For Senior Citizens: ₹75/ request	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
14	Account Closure (from account opening date)	Free for closure within 30 days of account opening, ₹500 for closure during 31 days to one year, Free after one year of account opening	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
15	ECS Return Charges	Return in a month - 1st: ₹450, 2nd: ₹500, 3rd onwards: ₹550, (Senior Citizens: ₹500)	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
16	Stop Payment Charges	Particular cheque: ₹100, Range of cheques: ₹200, For Senior Citizens, (w.e.f 1st Mar'21): Particular cheque: ₹90, Range of cheques: ₹180 (Free through NetBanking)	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
17	International ATM/ POS Transaction Charges	Cash withdrawal: ₹125, Balance enquiry: ₹25, Cross Currency mark-up on International Debit Card Transactions: 3.50%	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
18	Charge for Insufficient Balance per Transaction at ATM	₹25/ transaction	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
19	Standing Instruction Charges	Setting-up charge: ₹150/ standing instruction, Amendment charge: ₹25/ amendment, Execution charge involving payment through DD/ PO etc.: As per remittance, Plus ₹25 towards out of pocket expenses SI Rejects: ₹200/ instance	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
20	Managers Cheque/ Demand Drafts Cancellations/ Revalidation	DD-Cancellation/Duplicate/ Revalidation Instrument value up to ₹200: Nil; For Instrument value above ₹200: ₹100	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
21	Photo Attestation	₹100/ application/ letter	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
22	Signature Attestation	₹100, Senior citizen: ₹90	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
23	Old records/ copy of paid cheques	₹100/ request, For Senior Citizens: ₹75/ request	FREE at IDFC FIRST Bank
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Information mentioned is based on publicly available data as on 27th Oct'22

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Iblur junction to be made signal-free on experimental basis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Persistent requests of residents to implement sustainable measures at the busy Iblur junction to ease traffic congestion have finally been paid heed to as the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have decided to make it a signal-free junction on an experimental basis. The decision was taken after a meeting between resident groups and Special Commissioner (Traffic) M.A. Saleem recently.

Along with other traffic lines, the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and Sarjapur Road intersect at Iblur junction, making it one of the busiest junctions in the IT belt.

"The plan is to merge the traffic coming from Agara and Sarjapur Road into ORR without causing snarls. We will do this on a trial basis and then bring in other measures," Mr. Saleem said.

Those who travel from HSR Layout and Agara towards ORR and Sarjapur also pass through the junction. With Sarjapur Road witnessing a lot of commercial and residential development, the traffic choke points are located at several junctions of the road and culminate in a bigger manner at the Iblur junction. The residents had previously proposed a flyover to ease traffic snarls.

"Post 2014, we have seen an extraordinary surge in tech parks coming up between Bellandur and Marathahalli, which pushed residential development to other areas, mostly to Sarjapur Road. Traffic from Electronic City also has a gateway on the road to join Whitefield. School district has also been developed off of Sarjapur Road, which means that children inevitably get caught in congestion. All of these people who come to join ORR are ultimately getting caught up at Iblur junction," said Mukund Kumar of Iblur Environs Trust.

The residents have three long term demands for the betterment of the traffic situation in the area – make Iblur signal-free junction with a grade separator, fixing the infrastructure of Sarjapur Road and installation of traffic lights at other important junctions like Kaikondarahalli junction, Doddakanahalli junction and Muthanallur junction. However, they said that any kind of attention towards the problem at Iblur junction is viewed as a positive step by them.

"This will have a massive impact as it is the need of the hour given the amount of traffic piling up on Sarjapur Road. From what I understand, the traffic coming from Agara side will rotate under the bridge and come back on to Sarjapur Road and Sarjapur Road traffic itself will be moved 100 feet ahead and then a U-turn will be planned so that it comes back to the ORR side. If it actually works out, it will be a huge benefit to people of Harlur, Kasavanahalli, Doddakanahalli, Kaikondarahalli and others as sometimes we have 2 km of traffic jams just because of Iblur junction," said Sudarshan Shastry, a member of Bellandur Development Forum (BDF).

BBMP floats tender for long-pending Sankey Tank bund road-widening project

Though BBMP has tried to begin work on the project multiple times since 2011, it had to backtrack owing to vociferous protests by environmental activists and residents, who are opposed to the felling of nearly 30 trees for the project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sankey Tank bund road that connects Malleswaram 18th Cross to Sadashivanagar may soon be widened. K. MURALI KUMAR

The city's civic body has finally called tenders for the long-pending Sankey Tank bund road-widening project in Malleswaram, West Bengaluru, a project first proposed in 2011.

The narrow stretch of road between Bhashyam Circle and Malleswaram 18th Cross, a critical road linking Malleswaram with Sadashivanagar, will be widened by 15 metres at an estimated cost of ₹60 crore, according to civic body officials.

Though the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has tried to begin work on the project multiple times since 2011, it had to backtrack owing to vociferous protests by environmental activists and residents, who are opposed to the felling of nearly 30 trees for the project.

However, Higher Education Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, also the local MLA, has been championing the project to ease the traffic bottleneck in the area.

Traffic congestion

"The traffic congestion on this stretch is heavy, hence we have taken up this project. On December 14, we floated the tender to widen the Sankey Tank bund road. Karnataka government has also approved the project," a senior BBMP official said. In May this year, Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath had inspected the site and announced that the State government had cleared the project and tenders would be called soon.

"Roads are widened considering the increase in traffic volume. The BBMP will widen the road uniformly from Yeshwantpur Circle to Malleswaram 18th Cross and then further widen the road till Bhashyam Circle along the Sankey Tankbund," official added.

Motorists taking this stretch complain about traffic snarls. "The stretch always sees heavy traffic especially during peak hours. The traffic congestion is more than 500 meters up to Bashyam Circle on the stretch. The vehicles coming from Yeswanthpur side get stuck in traffic jams," said Murali Kumar, a motorist. Another motorist, Prashanth Rao, said not just during peak hours, there is a traffic congestion even during non-peak hours and welcomed the widening work being taken up.

Opposition to tree cutting

Meanwhile, concerned about the tree cutting to widening of the road, a few local residents are opposing the project proposed by Dr. Ashwath Narayan a decade ago.

In 2011, the residents protested the tree cutting for the project and continued to oppose the project for years. "Many residents have been opposing the project for damaging the trees on the stretch. If they (BBMP) cut trees to make space for the road it will not help decongest the traffic. The road is full of green cover, the civic body should not damage any trees," Prakash, a resident, said.

Malur MLA convicted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K.Y. Nanje Gowda, Congress MLA for Malur, was convicted in a cheque bounce case by the Special People's Representatives Court on Saturday.

Mr. Gowda had taken a loan of ₹40 lakh from one G. Ramachandra and had given him a cheque towards the repayment of loan, which had bounced following which Mr. Ramachandra had filed a criminal case against the MLA.

The Special People's Representatives Court convicted Mr. Gowda and ordered him to repay the debt and a fine totalling to ₹49.65 lakh to Mr. Ramachandra, failing which he will have to serve a sentence of six months simple imprisonment.

Drug peddler posing as food delivery agent arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sleuths from the Narcotics Control Wing (NCW) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) busted a narcotics ring in the city run from Bihar, and arrested a person who operated as a delivery agent for drugs in the garb of a food delivery agent in Whitefield.

Acting on a tip-off, police have arrested Abhijith, hailing from Bihar, in Whitefield and recovered 3 kg of ganja and two LSD strips weighing 14 grams from him. He was posing as a food delivery agent and had T-shirts and delivery bags of Swiggy and Zomato, both recovered from him. His interrogation revealed that the kingpin of the racket was based out of Bihar, who took orders for the narcotics on messenger apps and even supplied narcotics to Abhijith. He was only tasked with delivering it to the concerned customer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concerned that Sri B.S.Radhakrishna, S/o. Late B.R. SampathKumar, who is the owner of residential house constructed in BDA site No.269, situated at Channammanakere Achukattu Extension, 2nd Main, III phase Banashankari III Stage, Banashankari, Bangalore with PID No./Khata/Survey No:54-103-269 and BBMP ward No.164. He wants to sell this property through his GPA holder Shri G.R. Rajesh Kumar, S/o. Late G.Rangabhaskar, in favour of Shri Gopalkrishna Bhat, S/o. Narayan S Bhat, residing at 1520/A, Kumara Krupa, First Floor, 27th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070 . No:9480467778 If anyone has/have any objection, he/she may file the objection in writing along with the documentary evidence, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice and address to above Sri. Gopalkrishna Bhat.

Vishali Bhat Advocate
KAR/1730/04

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Ambika W/o Sri.Shankarappa** to bring the notice of the general public that the **original registered rectification deed, bearing Doc.No.YAN-1-08115/2018-19 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.YAND675, date 07.12.2018,** registered in the office of the sub-register, Yelahanka, Bangalore, executed by **Sri.Lagumaiah s/o Sri.Muniyappa (Karimeenappa)** in favour of **Smt.Ambika W/o Sri.Shankarappa** is missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

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All the piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing **site No.142,** Katha 586/142, formed in Sy. No. 20, measuring East to West: 30-0 feet and North to South: 20-0 feet, in all measuring 600 Sq.feet, situated at **Ananthapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk**, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore and bounded by:

East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.20, South by : Site No.22.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
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No. MCA/EOI/e-portal/336/2022-23 Dated : 17.12.2022

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

Expression of Interest is invited from the agency/company belonging to person/s of SC/ST Category for the works of printing and fixing of advertisement materials related to SCSP/TSP scheme of State Government on Bus Shelters and Bus Branding. The applicants should have valid Concessionaire Agreement/rights with KSRTC and its Affiliated Corporations / BMTC / Municipalities / City Corporations/ Mahanagara Palikes across Karnataka. The EOIs are invited through e-procurement portal as per KTPP Act, 1999. Those interested may download the documents from e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission: **02.01.2023 up to 5.00 p.m.** The Management has the right to accept or reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons thereon.

Sd/- Managing Director

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-42/2022-23 Dtd:16-12-2022

Short Term Tender Notification

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement (http://eproc. karnataka.gov.in) for the below Indents by PWD Class-3 and above Contractors. For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

8443 Deposit Contribution: Hosanagara 1 Work

3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Flood: Hosanagara 1 Work

5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements: Hosanagara 3 Work

Tender documents down loading & submission dates : Sl No.1 Works date:17-12-2022 to 26-12-2022 Sl No.2 Works Date:17-12-2022 to 02-02-2023, Sl No:3 to 5 Works Date: 19-12-2022 to 26-12-2022.

Period for completion of works :Sl No:1,3,4,5 works 6 Months, Sl No:2 Works 11 Months (Including Monsoon).

Sd/- EE, PW Dept DivisioAn, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/no.111/12/22-23/1481

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಘ.ಎ.ದಂ.ಕಾ.ನಿ. ವಿಭಾಗ–3, ಬೀಳಗಿ ಫೋನ ನಂ: 08425–275228

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಸಂ:ಕನೀನಿನಿ:ಘಎದಂಕಾ:ವಿ3:ಡಿಬಿ:2022–23/1911 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.12.2022

ಮೆ:ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಪೋರ್ಟಾಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (http://eproc.karnataka. gov.in) 4701 ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ–ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ 13 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿವರ : ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34990, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34860, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34861, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34893, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34836, KNNL/2022-23/IW /WORK_INDENT34859, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34817, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34819, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34816, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34818, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34835, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34954, KNNL/2022-23/IW/WORK_INDENT34950

ಅಂದಾಜು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಡಲಾದ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 6.95 lakhs to 229.83 Lakhs. ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.Rs 17500.00 to Rs 345000.00 ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ–03 ಬೀಳಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ17–12–2022 at 11.00 hrs. ಟೆಂಡರ ಕುರಿತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ 19–12–2022, Up to 17.00 hrs. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ23–12–2022 at 16.00 hrs. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 26–12–2022 at 11.00 hrs.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರು/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ನಿಯಮ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಶಿವಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಎಂ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರರು
ಕನೀನಿನಿ ಘಎದಂಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ3 ಬೀಳಗಿ

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-695/MCA/2022-23

Zilla Panchayat, Chikkaballapura
Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkaballapura

e-Procurement Tender Notification No.: 21/2022-23
Date: 12.12.2022

Applications Invited for Tenders subject to Standard Tender document KW-III Rules.

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Itemwar Tender invited through e-procurement in Two Cover System as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 for below mentioned works in the limits of Chikkaballapura Division from authorized Contractors enrolled in appropriate class in PWD. Application for e-procurement documents should be submitted in Department website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in (1)** Last date for submitting application through e-procurement and submitting filled schedule-B in website: **26.12.2022 up to 16.30 hours. (2)** Date of opening Technical Bid: **27.12.2022 after 16.35 hours. (3)** Date of opening Financial Bid: **29.12.2022 after 11.30 hours (if possible). (4)** Application Fee (Non-returnable): **As per e-procurement Rules.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P. R.E. Division, Chikkaballapura

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ395/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

ಕೋವಿಡ್-19. ಆತಂಕ ಬೇಡ; ಮುನ್ನೆಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ ಇರಲಿ.
ಮಾಸ್ಕ್ ಧರಿಸಿ | 6 ಅಡಿ ಭೌತಿಕ ಅಂತರ ಪಾಲಿಸಿ | ಕೈಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಕಾಪಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

:ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ:
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bagalkote Town Development Authority, Division No:01, Bagalkote-587102.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08354–233372 E-mail: btdadn1@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಬಾ.ಪ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ/ವಿ–01/ಪಿಬಿ–01/ತಿ.ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ 2022–23/ ದಿನಾಂಕ:

SHORTERM CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through-e- Procurement only)

Tender was invited by this office vide Tender Notification No.07/2022-23/ 3249, Dated: 01.12.2022. Due to the technical reason the corrigendum tender notification is issued as per KTPP Act. The intending bidders for work Indent No: 1321, 1337, 1320, 1319, 1288, 1289, 1292, 1297, 1291, 1293, 1290, 1333, 1327, 1277, 1283, 1284, 1282, 1278, 1279, 1285 And 1281, details may log in to e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The necessary fees as prescribed by e-procurement shall be paid through e-payment.
The schedule of tenders is as under.

1	Last date and Time for Tender Queries	09.12.2022 up to 5.00 pm	19.12.2022 up to 5.00 pm
2	Pre Bid Meeting Date & Time	13.12 .2022 at 11.00 am	21.12.2022 at 11.00 am
3	Last date of submission of tenders	20.12.2022 up to 5.00 pm	27.12.2022 up to 5.00 pm
4	Date of opening of Technical bid	21.12.2022 at 05.00 pm (if possible)	28.12.2022 at 05.00 pm (if possible)
5	Date of opening of Financial bid	23.12.2022 at 05.00 pm (if possible)	30.12.2022 at 05.00 pm (if possible)

DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-698/MCA/2022-23

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
BTDA, Dn. No: 01, Bagalkote

DEPT. OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Tel: 080-22215601, 22211246 Fax: 080-22215602.

No: Gethnaa/ES/135-1/2021-22 Date:15-12-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION - 4th Call
(Through e-Procurement Portal)

The Deputy Director(Admin) Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, invites Tender for the supply of following equipment.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	**Supply of Aqua Sports Equipment to Gethnaa.**	**90.00**	1,80,000/-

The tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement portal **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned address.
(a) Last date and time for submission of Tender documents through e-Procurement Portal: **22-12-2022, 16:00 hrs.**
(b) Opening of Technical bids: **23-12-2022 at 16:30 hrs.**

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
Youth Empowerment and Sports,
[Tender Inviting Authority]

DIPR/CP/3573/AAA/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE (W&M)/HSN/EE(O)/DCA/AEE-2/2022-23/4753-56 Date: 15.12.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL, Transmission (W&M) Circle, Hassan, Hassan District, invites bids on Electronic mode for the following service tender against the following bid enquiry number.

1) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/15 Providing new 2.9 MVAr capacitor bank on 11kV side of existing 12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer-1 at 220/66/11kV Receiving station, **Yachenahally** in Channarayapatna Taluk, on Partial Turnkey basis. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9569/CALL-5.**

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/17 Providing additional 1X8 MVA, 66/11kV Transformer at 66/11kV **Gangur** in Belur Taluk. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9826/CALL-2.**

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/18 Providing additional 1X8 MVA, 66/11kV Transformer at 66kV **Gendehalli** sub-station in Belur Taluk. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9827/CALL-2.**

4) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/19 Providing additional 1X8 MVA, 66/11 kV Transformer at 66kV **Ugane** Sub-station in Hassan Taluk. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9828/CALL-2.**

5) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/20 Combined package of: **(1)** Providing 2 Nos of additional Breakers for bus coupler arrangements at 110/11kV S/S Javagal. **(2)** Providing 2 Nos of additional Breakers for bus coupler arrangements at 110/11kV S/S Banavara. **(3)** Providing 02 Nos of additional 11kV MCVCB Breakers for new feeders after bifurcating existing Sankihalli and Kolagunda feeders at 110/11 kV Javagal S/S. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 10104.**

6) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/22 Replacement of existing 1X6.3 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 1X12.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11kV Sub-station, **Udayapura** in Channarayapatana Taluk **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9800/CALL-3.**

7) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/27 Replacement of age old troublesome ALSTOM make 66kV circuit breaker of 66kV **Kadavinakote-Ramanathapura** line terminal bay and other allied works at 66/11kV Sub-station, Ramanathapura in Arakalgud Taluk. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 10102.**

8) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/29 Providing LILO arrangement to 110 kV Belagumba Sub-station by stringing 110 kV 2nd circuit from tapping point for a distance of about 0.4 km along with 110 kV TB at 110 kV **Belagumba** Sub-station in Arasikere Taluk **(Call-4). Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/TL/WORK_INDENT 10101.**

9) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/30 Combined package of: **(1)** Providing additional 1 No. of MCVCB @ Gendehally for bifurcation of Overloaded feeder. **(2)** Providing additional 1 No. of PCVCB @ Gangur for bifurcation of Overloaded feeder. **(3)** Providing additional 1 No. MCVCB @ Hanubalu for bifurcation of Overloaded feeder. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 10105.**

10) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/39 For providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at 66/66kV switching station at **Uddurahally Koppalu** in TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Hassan in Hassan Taluk.

11) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/09 Complete repair of the failed 8 MVA 66/11KV SPEC make Power Transformer bearing Sl. No: ST-31238 YOM:2005 DOF:18.01.2022 at 66/11kV Sub-station **Basavagatta** in Nodal Centre, 220/66kV R/S Hassan, TL&SS Division, KPTCL, Hassan. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9634/CALL-3.**

12) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/11 Complete repair of the failed 8 MVA 66/11KV SPEC make Power Transformer bearing Sl.No: ST-37014 YOM:2011 Stationed at 66/11 kV Sub-station **Shettihally** Channaraya patana Taluk. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT 9633/CALL-4.**

13) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE(W&M)/HSN/2022-23/26 Complete repair of the failed 8 MVA 66/11 KV RIMA make Power Transformer bearing Sl.No: ST-1272/3 YOM:2004 Stationed at 66/11kV Sub-station Shanivarasanthe Somavarapete Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka State. **Work Indent No. KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9815/CALL-3**

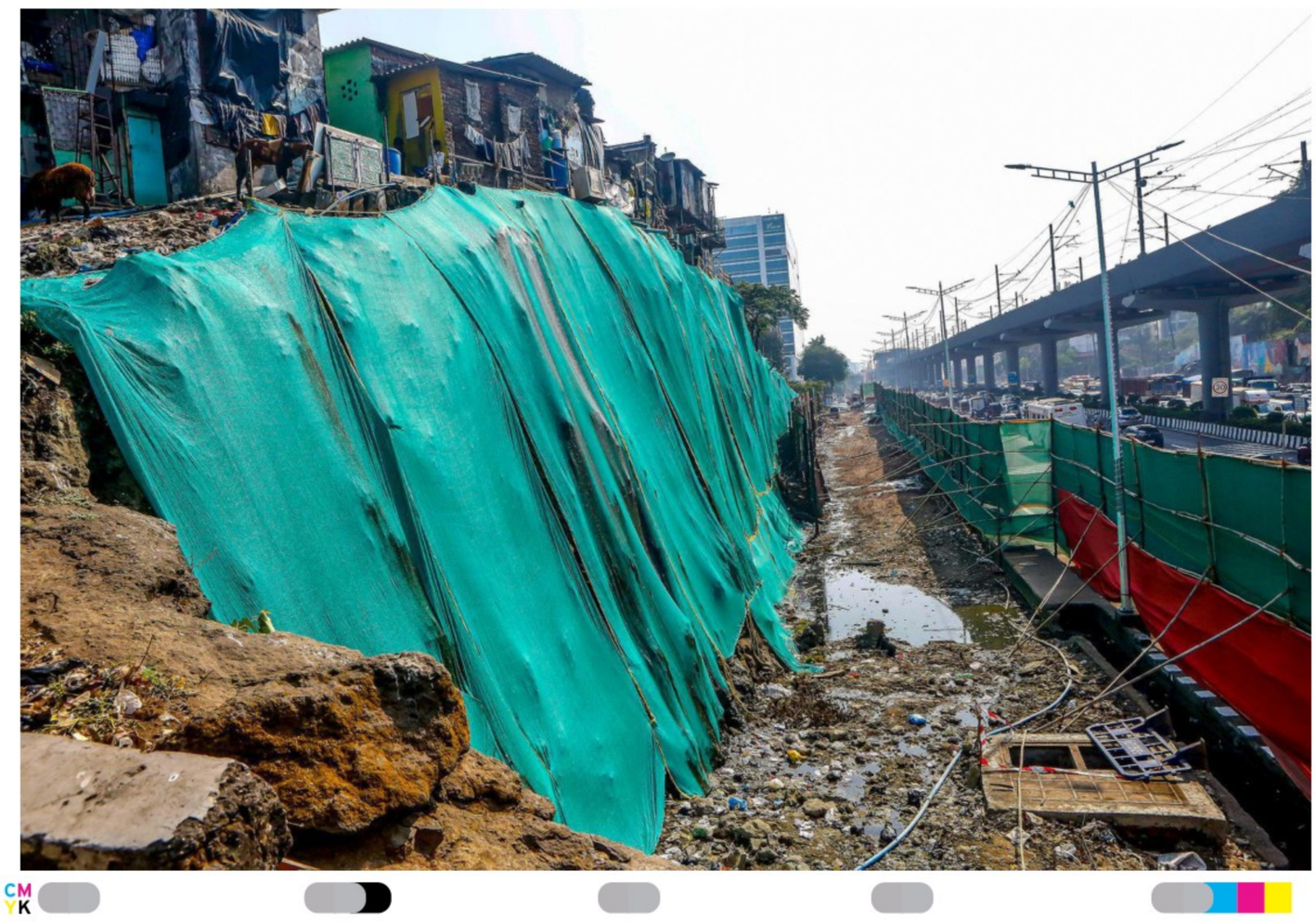
The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "e-procurement-kptcl" or **https://Karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 AM on 19.12.2022.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, Ele.,Trans (Works & Maint.) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan – 573201. Ph: 08172-250765.**

Bridge branding: Delegates to the G-20 working group meet get a colourful greeting as sheets are wrapped around ongoing construction work in Santacruz.

Short cut: A giant pipeline in Bandra is poorly concealed.

Life goes on: Women chatting outside their homes near Khar.



Under the carpet: An attempt to hide garbage and a drain in Mumbai.

Great divide: A stretch of the Western Express Highway near Khar.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 18		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:57
RISE	01:28	SET 13:41
MONDAY, DEC. 19		
RISE	06:35	SET 17:58
RISE	02:18	SET 14:20
TUESDAY, DEC. 20		
RISE	06:36	SET 17:58
RISE	03:12	SET 15:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	17
Bengaluru	28	16

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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FIFA World Cup 2022: Stage set as football fever reaches crescendo

Many apartment complexes, gated communities, and clubs across the city have set up digital projectors and LCD screens to turn the final match into a public celebration. Some places have specially curated FIFA special menus for the customers

Shalini Kapat Sim V.
BENGALURU

Many restaurants in Bengaluru have organised screening of the football final on Sunday.

Football frenzy has reached a crescendo and the stage is set for the final of the FIFA World Cup 2022 between Argentina and France on Sunday in Bengaluru too as many apartment complexes, gated communities, clubs, and restaurants have organised live screening of the match.

Various clubs, sports bars, and restaurants across the city have set up digital projectors and LCD screens to turn the final into a public celebration. Some places on New BEL Road, Koramangala, and Church Street have specially curated FIFA World Cup special menus for the customers.

"We are going to set up two screens. There is going to be live commentary and a booth for making face tattoos. The cover charges for entry can be redeemed with food and drinks that we are going to provide during the match," said one of the staff from a popular restobar on M.G. Road.

Many apartment complexes have also organised screenings for their residents. "This weekend is going to be great for all sporting fans, not just footballers. It is Messi's last shot at glory. It is amazing for all the Indian fans that the match is scheduled at 8.30 p.m. Everybody can enjoy the match and also get to the office in time the next morning," says Sanjay Ponnappa, an avid football enthusiast.

"Seeing fans from all around the world enjoying football and witnessing the matches live made it one of the most memorable experiences of my life. Regardless of where people come from, it was a celebration of the game," says Sankalp, a football fan who recently visited Qatar to catch the matches live.

From Page One

Almost a year gone, but Peenya flyover is still closed for heavy vehicles

DCP Traffic (West) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain said, "We have repeatedly written letters to the NHAI seeking information about allowing heavy traffic. We have not received any clear response from their end. In the interest of the motorists, movement of heavy vehicles on the main lanes under the flyover is restricted during peak hours. Tumakuru Road is a busy stretch where traffic flows round the clock. We will take measures on allowing all kinds of traffic on the flyover after NHAI comes up with a clear response."

On other hand, people travelling long distance destinations are forced to spend more than 45 minutes at night to cross Bengaluru. Ramesh Kumar, a bus driver said, "To cross Goraguntepalya to Nagasandra toll gate, it takes more than 40 minutes at night. Tumakuru Road is a prominent stretch and it links most of the districts of the State with Bengaluru. Despite high traffic flow, authorities are still struggling to open the flyover for heavy traffic. Despite facing all these problems, owners are forced to pay toll at Parle G tollgate."

When asked about why the NHAI is taking close to a year to open the flyover for heavy vehicles, an official said, "We are on the job. In ten days, we will inform of the measures that are going to be taken." Chandra Kishen J.M. from the Civil Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), who is a part of an expert committee, said, "There is a need to add additional cables to the existing structure to enhance the carrying capacity of the flyover. In each span, two cables will be added. There are 120 spans in the flyover and a total of 240 cables will be added. This may take about three months. Then, heavy vehicle traffic will be allowed."

Valmiki Development Authority office raided

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta police conducted simultaneous raids against the Managing Director of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes' Development Authority over alleged corruption in Ganga Kalyana Yojane, on Saturday.

Raids were on at the office of the Authority, MD Kavita M. Warangal's residence in Bengaluru and two of her relative's houses in Haveri district.Sources said Lokayukta Police have seized several incriminating documents during the raids.

Based on source-based information and several complaints over alleged corruption in distribution of submerged pump sets under Ganga Kalyana Yojane to farmers,a *suo motu* case has been taken up.

Dayananda K.A.,new Bengaluru Urban DC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Urban district got a new Deputy Commissioner on Saturday. Karnataka government has appointed IAS officer Dayananda K.A. as Deputy Commissioner, relieving Sangappa from concurrent charge.

The Election Commission had earlier suspended K. Srinivas, Bengaluru Urban DC, who was also Additional Electoral Registration Officer, for the alleged voters data theft row and appointed ZP CEO Sangappa to the post.

In the last decade, the Bengaluru DC post has seen three arrests. Former Bengaluru DC J. Manjunath, arrested over graft charges was the third in the post to be arrested in the last decade. M.K. Aiyappa and B.M. Vijay Shankar were similarly arrested in 2013 and 2019 over graft charges. Before that, Special DC Ramanjaneya was arrested by the Lokayukta police in a trap case in 2010, but was discharged by the court for want of evidence in 2015.

Meanwhile, after the directions by Election Commission of India, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner on Saturday ordered that the civic body should not give the the task of conducting the house-to-house survey to help create awareness about Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation to any private agencies. The development comes after BBMP revoked permission to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust to carry out the SVEEP campaign after receiving several complaints from residents that the NGO was collecting personal details while conducting door-to-door surveys by deputing field level workers and led to the alleged voters data theft case.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Two researchers from KLE Technological University ranked among the top 1%

Prof. Tejraj M. Aminabhavi

Dr Nagaraj P. Shetti

The researcher duo from KLE Technological University, Prof. Tejraj M. Aminabhavi and Dr Nagaraj P. Shetti, were listed among the Top 1% of Highly cited researchers of the world in 2022 according to Highly Cited Researchers from Clarivate. Highly Cited Researchers from Clarivate is an annual list recognizing influential researchers in sciences and social sciences from across the globe. The 2022 list contains about 4,000 Highly Cited Researchers in 21 fields of the sciences and social sciences and about 3,200 Highly Cited Researchers identified as having exceptional performance across several fields. Aminabhavi secured second and Shetti secured the eighteenth position in the list from India.Among the 25 Indian researchers securing the top 1%, Aminabhavi was declared the world's most influential researcher by Clarivate. He is also the recipient of this recognition for the successive second year.

Nitte Institute of Physiotherapy organises Nitte Physio Panacea 2022

Commemorating its Silver Jubilee Year, Nitte Institute of Physiotherapy organised Nitte Physio Panacea 2022, an International Physiotherapy Conference on 2 and 3 December 2022 at Justice K.S. Hegde Auditorium, Deralakatte, Mangalore. Nitte Physio-Panacea 2022 hosted over 1400 delegates from all across the country. The theme centred around the topic 'Sunnyside of Global Physiotherapy Research, Practice and Education.' The conference was attended by 35 colleges from the professional physiotherapy fraternity. The conference saw academically inspiring talks by more than 20 speakers from national universities and international academic partners from the Philippines and Hong Kong, alongside 310 scientific poster/paper presentations. A scholarly Pre-Conference Workshop also preceded the event, which focussed on the recent trends in Physiotherapy. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dr Niranjan Vanalli, Vice Chancellor, Bengaluru North University and was presided over by N. Vinaya Hegde, Chancellor, NDU; Vishal Hegde, Pro-Chancellor (Administration), NDU; Prof. Dr Satheesh Kumar Bhandary, Vice-Chancellor, NDU; Dr M S Moodithaya, Pro-Vice Chancellor, NDU and Dr Harsha Halahalli. The two-day conference also hosted a musical extravaganza that featured artists such as Vimal Roy, Tania Elizabeth Mathew, Shreya S Menon, Mookambika Chende and DJ Jagath. Furthermore, an alumni night was also organised. The conference concluded with a valedictory function, which was graced by Prof. Dr M. Shantharam Shetty, Pro-Chancellor, NDU; Dr T Srinivas, Registrar, Navodaya Education Trust, Navodaya Group of Institutions and Prof. Dr Rajesh Shenoy, Director, Padmashree Group of Institutions.

SDM University celebrates Founder's Day

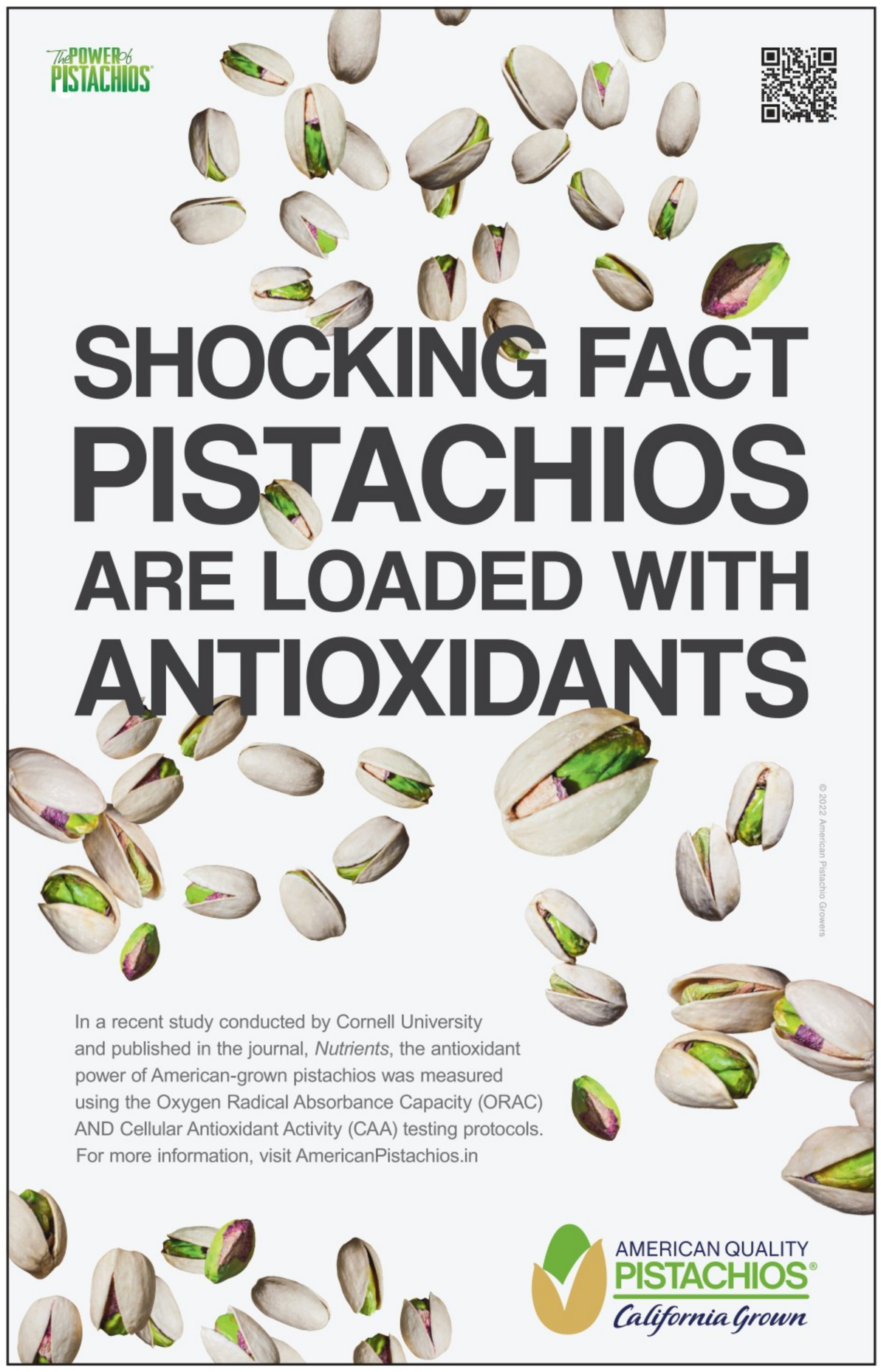
Honouring the birthday of Dr D Veerendra Heggade, SDM University, Dharwad celebrated its Founder's Day on 25 November 2022. Dr Niranjan Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SDM University alongside Prof. Venkappayya R Desai, Director of IIT Dharwad, inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. Smt. Padmalatha Niranjan Kumar, Executive Director, Shri Saketh Shetty, Director Administration, Pro Vice-Chancellors, Shri V Jeevandhar Kumar & Dr S K Joshi, Dr Chidendra M Shettar, Registrar, Shri V G Prabhu, Finance Officer were present during the function. Heggade reciprocated his gratitude to all those who wished him on his birthday whilst affirming that he owes his health to the blessings he receives. The Vice-Chancellor gave a brief outline of the Life and achievement of the Heggade. Furthermore, Desai highlighted the amalgamation of education and spirituality. Prof. Venkappayya R Desai was felicitated by the Vice Chancellor, Niranjan Kumar and Smt. Padmalatha Niranjan and other Dignitaries.

KJC organises the 48th edition of Vichaarmanthan

The Department of Life Sciences at Kristu Jayanti College (KJC) Autonomous, Bengaluru, organised the 48th edition of Vichaarmanthan titled, "Godspeed and 37 seconds" on Friday, November 25, 2022. Padma Shri Dr T. S Chandrashekar, Chairman and Chief Gastroenterologist, MedIndia Hospitals, Chennai graced the occasion as the chief guest for the day. Chandrashekar highlighted the 14 essentials of motivation and explained the significance of 37 seconds. He also shared his success mantras at the event. Students from Kristu Jayanti College conversed with the chief guest and posed questions regarding his success and the virtues he followed. The honourable chief guest was thanked by Fr. Dr Augustine George, Principal, Kristu Jayanti College, for addressing the gathering with such profound insights on life itself. In memory of Dr T.S Chandrashekar's visit, a sapling was planted at the college campus.

Fifth Convocation Ceremony of Presidency University, Bangalore

Presidency University held its fifth convocation ceremony on 26 November 2022 at the University premises. Over 3270 graduates, which included 2534 UG graduates, 689 Postgraduate and 47 Doctoral Candidates were awarded Degrees. Thirteen Gold medals were awarded to the toppers of different programs. The ceremony was graced by Padma Shri. Awardee Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, President of IITM Research Park, IITM Incubation Cell and RTBI, Institute Professor, IIT Madras, Chennai who served as the chief guest for the day. Dr C. N. Ashwath Narayan, Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, IT & BT, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood and Pro-Visitor to Presidency University presided over the Convocation. Jhunjhunwala enunciated the importance of students' contribution towards the creation of a better society, while Narayan discussed the positive effects of the National Education Policy (NEP) in the education arena. Other dignitaries who were present on the occasion were Dr D. Subhakar, Vice Chancellor, Abdul Bari A, Registrar In-charge and Suhael Ahmed, Member Board of Governors (BoG).



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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Proposals from Boys of Comparable Profile for Palghat Nair Divorcee Girl born Oct 1983 Makayiram, 152cm fair athletic, SWE with a multinational at Bangalore. Contact: 9446022706, Email: nairjk54@gmail.com

DOCTOR

HINDU PARVATHARAJAKULAM 28 MBBS Slim Fair seeks MBBS/MS/MD grooms. Caste no bar. Whatsapp: 9487675357

AGE 25 years, 5ft 9 inch Good Looking Pursuing M.S (Surgery), Parents Seeks Chennai based teetotaler and humble Doctors / Professors. Parents Contact: anandchammu@yahoo.co.in with Photograph and details.

39 /DOCTOR /pallar /innocent divorcee /good looking seeks suitable groom Contact – 9865795874

Unmarried Sunni Urdu MD or MS Doctor for my Daughter 25 / 160 studying MD in Tamil Nadu. Reply Color Photos and Contact Number to marhaba1889@gmail.com

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

For UP based Beautiful Rajput Girl, 1987, PCS Officer, seeks suitable match. Rajput /Gen +91-8931814984

MALAYALAM

RC GIRL 26/170cm Working In MICROSOFT.Parents Keralite Settled In CHENNAI.Own BUISINESS Seeks Chennai Based GROOM From a Good Family Background.9884185583

KERALA MUSLIM GIRL 21 M.Sc Maths Reputed Well Settled Family From Calicut Invites Proposal Chennai, Bangalore Only Kerala Muslim. 9382337963

HINDU – SC Girl: 36/157, Agri -Scientist - (CG-Pune) from south Kerala, seeks alliance from well educated professionals. Contact: 7972420241, 9447296008

NRI GIRL, Viswabrahmin, 30, 157 cm, fair, good looking (Bharani) born & brought up in Dubai, LLB, LLM from England, preparing for NY BAR Examination, presently working in Dubai as lawyer, brother working as doctor in UK. Proposals invited from boys working in UK/US (born and brought up outside Kerala having UK /US academic qualification). Caste no bar (only Hindu). Contact 00918943432057.

NRI

We are looking for our Daughter, a practicing Muslim Hijabi. She is 29 years of age, 5'4' in height and is slim. She is a US Citizen. Currently, our Daughter is in Graduate School Pursuing her Ph.D. We are looking for a tall, Practicing Deen Orientated Muslim, Preferable age 29-35, who has strong Family values. We are seeking someone who has been accepted to a US Medical Residency Program or a Practicing Dentist in the U.S. Serious inquiries only. You can Contact me at Email: hydrolion1@gmail.com, 1773-988-8113,

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Hearing Impaired Hindu, 43, PG Divorcee,Issueless seeks Hindu/christian Hearing Impaired, Teetotaller,Vegtrn, Fincly stable.Ct:8248998374 aftr 11am

TAMIL

MDS RC32/165 Reader Dental college Chennai seeks PGDrs/Engr caste No bar Ct 9444157888

DIVORCEE CSI Christian AD 37 Years / 159 Cms B.Sc Nursing. Working in Military Nursing Service (Major Rank) 10 L/pa (No child). Seeks suitable groom without child. Caste no bar. Contact : 9447 578421 / 9667 667264.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

GOD FEARING well to do Groom for a God fearing, fair, beautiful , bride Nadar Christian, MBA (UK) , aged 31 from well settled family, employed in a Foreign Embassy in Chennai. Parents Contact. 95000 27027

MUSLIM GIRL. B.TECH (IT) 28/162cm, Very Fair, Well Settled Business Family, Legally Divorced, No issues.Contact: 9445556810

TAMIL

WELL EDUCATED, well settled Bridegroom from a affluent family age 31 to 34 for my daughter, fair, good looking, God fearing, B.Com, MBA getting a monthly Income of Rs.6 lakhs . We are CSI Nadar Christian. Parents Contact. 98401 29090.

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 34/154 fair Hastham MCA Uppr Mid Cls Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Workg in Corp Co 8220757159

35 B.COM MBA Pillai Anusham Raghu in lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom and also with children are acceptable 9094020665

SC ARUNTHATHIYAR Thiruvathirai 9-9-1985 MSc employed 1st Marriage seeks suitable groom. Ph:9150331377

WELL CULTURED, Educated and well to do HINDU-DEVENDRAKULA VELALAR (PALLAN) Parents invite proposals for their well educated and employed daughter B.Tech (NIT), MBA(IIM) 27 years well settled & good looking. Father Category – 1 Officer – Central Govt., Seeks Suitable Alliance from well educated and decent family. Contact No. 91766 77746

HINDU NADAR Girl, Age 28, Ht 168 cms M.E, Asst. Professor, Upper Middle Class. Seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Contact: 96265 15511

GAVARA NAIDU, well Employed/ Business Bridegroom with BE/ CA/ MBBS/ MBA degree for Fair & Good looking Girl, Age 25, B.E., working in IT, Chennai belonging, Upper middle Class (Naidu Only). Call/ Whatsapp: 63806 23267/ 94450 02649

MUDALIAR : 24/165,Fair & Beautiful, B.Arch, Having Own Construction ,Sports Academy, Guest House & Restaurant ,Textile Business, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Business / Abroad – 8925019776

WORKING PROFESSIONAL, Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 35 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 35–37 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 4 PM; 7550245659

AD 27/160 Dr,wrking seeks groom blw 31y from well settled edu tamil fmly Dr/ Er/Bank/Govt, psu officer 7010541307

SC ADIDRAVIDA,37YRS/163CMS, Dhanus/ pooradam,B.E/MBA,Bank Manager PSU, seeks unmarried employed groom. Email:wedlocknew@gmail.com

HINDU MUTHURAJA 29/164cm, B.E, IT. Seeks employed Engineering Groom. Other BC communities accepted. Contact : 98433 42955

MUDALIAR SLIM 26 Yrs/172 Cms, Virchigam MD 2nd Year (Homeo) seeks suitable groom. Ct: 9778182019 / 8921394460.

24Chettiar 28/157 BE girl Group1 Officer DSP,seeks groom from Officer Rank/Business Family 9443232363

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/ 160, B.E, MS (USA) Amazon, SWE, USA, 700000 PM, Elite Family – Seeks Groom Abroad / India – 8939012419

INTER CASTE Parents seek for daughter 27/156 SWE employed Chennai, from suitable Hindu groom. 90032 87101

SAIVA PILLAI 27/165 BE Civil Wheatish Maharam seeks employed groom. Contact: 6380810427

HINDU ADIDRAVIDA 32/155/MBA 50K Tula–Swathi seeks qualified Groom from well Settled Family. Ct:9444711533

GIRL 35 yrs,Fair, Mithunam, B.Com, MBA,Grammani ,working, Seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9445287838

BRIDE HOLDING Group–B post in Indian Foreign Service seeks alliance. 25yr, 5ft 5inch, BSc(Maths), beautiful, slim, Iyer, Athreya. Tamil Brahmin groom only. robot3391@gmail.com

INTERCASTE HINDU parents, girl B.Tech. BL., aged 32, fair 173cm. Star Chithirai. Seeks well educated, employed groom, any caste in Hindu family. Contact 82480 53864

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 28 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK.Seeks groom in UK or willing to go to UK. Caste No Bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862

INTER CASTE DOCTOR Parents Pillai / DKV Seeks alliance for their daughter good looking, 168/26 M.Com Uthirattathi, Meenam. Boy should be well educated well placed in TN / Bangalore age around 30 preferable. Contact Whatsapp Only. 93632 80595

GAVARA, 30/159cm, M.E., Central Govt., Divorcee without encumbrance, Parents Central Govt. seeks suitable Groom - affluent family. 89035 96009.

TAMIL

CHETTIAR, 31/167cm, B.E., PGDM (IIM), Manager, 24L p.a, seeks equally qualified Groom. CNB. 80722 31783.

HINDU SC Adi dravida, BE MBA, Female age 29, working in Accenture, Contact 9444991091.

MBBS, MD, Govt.Service 30, Aayilyam, Pillai, 129 cm subsects no-bar. Qualified suitable Groom Contact 9003204007

VISWABRAHMIN(GS) / Thiruvonam 40/150 ME(CSE) / Rich / Fair seeks Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

SEEKING ALLIANCE from US based grooms for US working girl. Caste no bar. Age 26 MS (PhD). Vanniyar Kettai. Pls contact 9940372423

WANTED GROOM for 22 B.E.151cm Mirukasirisham, Isaivelalar, working in a reputed IT company in Chennai with 4.5 LPA. Good family background. Groom from similar backgrounds is welcome Contact 9952847138/9500272445.

ALLIANCE FOR B.Tech–CS, MNC employed, vadama bharadwaja tamil iyer girl 23/5ft 3inch. Email horoscope & biodata to pbvenkat17@gmail.com

BG MUST MTECH/ME GOVT JOB in Chennai for 32/168 CMS PhD Eng. GOVT Eng. lecturer no sibling Father Retd Central Govt matri9757@gmail.com.

SOZHIYA VELLALAR 26/161 Kettai B.Arch MNC Hydrabad, Seeks Groom with Good Job, Pillai/Mudaliar 9443471829

REQUIRED BRIDEGROOM Tamil Senguntthar Age: 28, Qual: BE, MBA, Working in Corporate Company in Bangalore. Subcaste No Bar. Ct: 9600076519

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

MUDALIAR 26, BE, MBA, 162cm,Good looking well Settled Family Seeks Alliance CNB, Ct.8778514465/ 7200866346

DKV 28/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai, Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr / Er. Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

GROOM WANTED

VELLALA PILLAI 44/5.2, Very Fair, Good Looking, Working as IT Professional in UK in a reputed US-MNC, Affluent and Educated Family living in Chennai. Seeks Well Settled Professional Groom from equal communities in India, with clean habits, never married, based in UK, USA, Australia, Dubai, Singapore and India. Early Marriage. Brokers excuse.
Ct : 9884453236
chennaibride2022@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED

33/168, Thiruvonam, Agamudiar, young PG, MS (General Surgery) FRCS (Edin) working as Senior fellow in U.K. seeks PG qualified Doctor from good family background. Subcaste - No Bar
Mail: vu.shankar@yahoo.in
Mob: 98400-39987

Good looking 5'7", Architect, 26 years from Chennai/ Bangalore upper middle-class family looking for well educated settled smart groom between 27-31years from affluent Hindu family (non-veg)
Caste no bar
Please call or what's app
7401126915
9840087994

TELUGU

GROOM WANTED

KAPU NAIDU Telugu, 29/152, Fair, White and Slim Girl, B.Tech., MBA. Rich, Owned 2 Engineering Colleges, No Brothers, Grand Father Sitting MLA. Seeks suitable rich kapu groom from AP/TS
Contact Mobile : 6281218694

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

ALLIANCE INVITED from educated non mangalik Hindu girls for UKNRI/32/5 4/MSC,BBA/ Pvt sector employee.+4 47456420703/gaja1@icloud.com

COSMOPOLITAN

Well settled, Educated, Elite family of Pillay community seeks suitable Bride from Educated Family of any Caste for their Son, 34 Yrs/170 cm, BE, MS, (PhD), Working at Reputed Electrical Company in JAPAN, with 40 LPA. Contact Mobile: 9414034936.

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29 ,175 cm, Handsome, B.Tech and Masters, from well to do educated family, working in U.K., seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27 from an educated family. Caste or language no bar. Send bio, photo to indirapriya1968@gmail.com, 8328645024. No brokers.

DIVORCEE

WELL SETTLED Tamilnadu boy, second divorcee born in 1964 / 178 cm, seeking a girl preferably non–working without kids, who should be focused and escalate, loyal to stay Long. (Money–minded girls kindly excuse) Ct: 63857 54610.

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR 33 MCA Divorce Poorarutathi Team Lead in Accenture Drawing Rs.18L/PA Seeks Suitable Bride 9840534600

MENON BOY, 35/174, B.Tech, MS, MBA (Cornell, USA) Project Manager, Toronto with PR, Looking for Good Looking qualified girl. 9995205841.

NRI

VISWAKARMA 31/155 Maham Ph.D Scientist well settled in Newyork,seeks bride studying / working in USA. Caste nobar.CT : 7200771188

TAMIL

B.TECH. M.S. BITS–Pilani Boy 34/ 5ft 4inch MNC 22LPA Hindu–Goundar/ Chennai. Looking for girl from same caste/caste no bar. 9941352228 or venkatesh.jayvish@gmail.com

TAMIL

MUDALIAR B.E MBA M.Phil LLB 39/165 / 10Lac P.A Seeks Bride Simple Marriage. Call: 8861238981

HINDU MUDALIAR BE/MS, 170cm, Working in USA, Income 6Lac, Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9710093999

VANNIAR FAIR 31/170 (BE) 40K Swathi well settled seeks fair Chennai & nearby bride Empld prfd. 7397340099

SASIKUMAR, HINDU Naadar (42), Divorcee, 40k Cancer, Poosam & 2 kids (M) 10&9, Caste no matters, no expectations, expecting partner without kids, Mediators pls avoid 9840075677

47, MBA, tall, well settled Widower with a 16 year old son is looking for a partner over 40 years. City bred, educated, broad minded, fun loving, peaceful person may send details to varamsathya@gmail.com

US CITIZEN, Divorced, Tamil, Hindu, Pillai, 53 years, Male seeking Bride. Contact: 07845034234 (WhatsApp)

HINDU VANNIAR Sadhayam 49 Second Marriage, Divorced Govt. of Dubai (Airport) 2.5 Lpm, seeks suitable bride. Cont:9790582851

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 30, 185 cms, Businessman, Masters in Management. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from same community. Contact: 6366448343

BRAHMIN, 29, 165 cms, Management Professional, ME. Lives in Abu Dhabi. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a suitable match and ready to relocate to Abu Dhabi. Contact: 6366448343

GOUNDER, 34, 175 cms, Senior Manager, MBA. Lives in Delhi. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

YADAV, 27, 178 cms, Medical Professional, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Central Govt Employee. Family is affluent. Looking for a well educated match. Contact: 6366448344

CASTE NO BAR, 29, 185 cms, Counsellor Physiology, MS. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 29, 170 cms, Counsellor, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from Iyer/Iyengar. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYAR, 26, 165 cms, Medical Professional, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 27, 160 cms, Advocate, LLB. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good a net worth. Looking for compatible match. Contact: 6366448343

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, post graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

CHRISTIAN CSI, 24, 160 cms, Medical Professional, Pursuing MD, Lives in Chennai. Parents are highly placed Professionals. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM 29/184 MDS Prosthodontist S/O District Judge (Rtd.) seeks Doctor bride. Contact: 9047613106.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar height: 169cm Doctor MDRD Nov 1992 Born Looking for a Christian Nadar Doctor Bride Contact: 63810 00493

MUDALIAR SENGUNTHAR /28years /165 cm/Orthopedic Surgeon/ MS(Ortho–JIPMER) /Govt.Medical College DOCTOR /90,000 /Seeks MS/MD Qualified/ studying Bride /9655618699, 9486116037

ENGLISH

TAMIL YADHAVA Boy Biotech Specialist Resident in Australia 37Years/ 5'10"seeks suitable bride from good family. Caste no bar. Contact:9677181668.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN 48/175 B.com Divorcee Govt.Job. 90,000/-PM Chennai. Caste No bar. Ph: 8825897792 / 9940671540

I'M RAMKUMAR, aged 27 years, height 5ft 6inch, Self Educated, Doing Business well earning, Living in Annanagar Chennai, Hindu, Telugu Chettiar, Caste no bar, Mob– 7904504721

HINDU NADAR 32, BE, 170cm, Govt. Job, Income 60000 Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

ARCOT MUDALIAR Krithigai 27/178 BE MBA Elite well settled business family,Chennai seeks educated bride from Chennai. 9840723555/ 9789091253

TAMIL

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

SENGUNTHAR KETTAI 36/165, M.Tech (Ph.D), Asst. Prof.(HOD) Pvt. Engg. College, Pondicherry, seeks bride age 28 to 35yrs. Cont:9442557578

INTERCASTE (BC&FC), 44y/5'7", IT, BE MS, Divorcee (Short lived marriage; No kids), Clean habits. Seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9790911710

TELUGU

NAIDU 32, Well Settled, B Tech, MBA, MNC veg, fair & Pretty seeks equally Qualified groom, Contact: 9941348103

REPUTED NAIDU affluent Business Family in Chennai seeks Bridegroom from USA,for their Beautiful Daughter BE, MS, MBA, 27yrs,working in USA (greencard under process) preferably Chennai settled families 9884235562

TELUGU

NAIDU 29/165,VERY Beautiful, MBBS, Preparing for PG, Educated Affluent Family, CNB.7299576644, 7299576666

KAMMA NAIDU 26/163 Uthiradam MS CS USA, 1Cr+/pa, SW Professional, seeks groom MS in US/ well settled business family in Tamilnadu 7550073772

URDU

SMU SLIM Fair 28/165 Medico Girl MRCP (Completed 2 Parts) seek Doctor good family background. Send biodata with photo: morningmist@gmail.com

MDS 27 yrs 161 cms Religious,Slim & Fair seeks Groom from MBBS, MDS, MBA & Engg. 99404 50455, 90427 86424

URDU MUSLIM Sheik / Syed BE–Architect 24 / 163cm religious, slim seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444086515, 9841741885

URDU MUSLIM Sheik/Syed B.Sc–Computer 26/163cm religious, good looking seeks groom from Educated and good family. Ct: 9444862826, 9999725706.

TAMIL

42, CHENNAI Boy working as Advisor Cyber Security in Chennai, seeks good character girl for his first marriage. Caste no bar, education no bar, no dowry. if interested Call: 9742033888, email: saravananjvjv@gmail.com. All the best for you partner search as well.

BOY 40/173 divorcee SWE Apple US seek Bride below 38 years Contact : 9901026582

VISWABRAHMIN(GS) / Thiruvonam 40/170 ACA & ACMA/ 70000 MNC seeks Same Caste Bride. 9486320982

HINDU BALIJA Naidu, 5.11, BE,Working in Bangalore, Inc 19L PA Seeks Suitable Bride.9710093999/ 8939691888

HINDU NADAR 27, 175cm, BE, Income 150000/– Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

HINDU 41 / 172 Anusham, Virchakam M.com., Working in Bank (Govt.) Chennai. Seeks Suitable Chennai Bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 9791189937

Isai Vellar/Senguntha Mudaliar 27/ 177 BTech EE NIT AJIO B'lore 25L PA Star Pooram/Raasi Simham no sibling & Mother Father Engr PD Central Govt seek suitable Girl preferably work in IT Contact: 9818605520.

VELLALAR POOSAM 42yrs, Never Married, Manager, MNC, Chennai 1.5Lpm, seeks suitable Graduate Employed unmarried Hindu bride below 37yrs. Cont:9600369231 (any time) / 9739751091(between 7-9am&pm only)

TECH PROFESSIONAL Fair 42yr Unmarried 166 cms Seeks Maximum 38 age Preferable Unmarried, Good Looking Homely/working Girl, Good to Live with Parents In–law in Chennai Caste No Bar Ct: 98400 37081

VISWAKARMA TAMIL 30/167 SW Eng Revathi/ME(ph.d)/Fair/RS.6 L PA seeks suitable bride 9444247481/ 8428432112

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 26/180, Coimbatore,B.Com., MBA Manager D-Mart Tirupur,Rs. 4.5 Lakhs p.a, seeks suitable eduacted bride from same caste.CT: 97913-05223, 97917-15531.

GAVARA NAIDU, 38/180, Uthiradam, Maharam, B.E.,M.S(Engg), Cheif Engr, MNC Chennai, 15L PA, First marriage seeks educated Bride. Ct:9487272897

HINDU DKV Pallan ME, 41/167cm Manager Nationalised Bank. Seeks Suitable Bride. CT 99652 11259

MUKULATHOOR BOY 36/171 Handsome Own Business Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride from Decent Family. Caste No Bar. Ph: 9884899749, 7358561070 Email: mr_bose55@yahoo.com

IYER 35/180, Fair, Bharani Star, Haritha Gothram own Business in Chennai Seeks Suitable Aliance from Brahmin Family 9841819468 / 9841030226

DIVORCEE REVATHY 37/186 B.E. M.B.A Handsome Sr. Manager Iyer Boy Seeks Graduate Brahmin Girl 9176090042

TAMIL

IIT 6'2 Engineer Mudaliar born in Nov 91 Wkg as Technical Lead at HYD in Top MNC Sal 60 lacs seeks Bride 5' 4 Engineer, CA Doctor Ct: 7382620365.

BRAHMIN,42, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl. Ph: 9487851429

IYER, 32 / 178cm, B.Tech, Koundinyam, Pooratathi, Google, Singapore. Parents in Chennai. Affluent. Looking for a Suitable Brahmin alliance, Subsect No Bar. Ph: 98403 59234

VADAMA SANKRUTHI Moolam 32 symbiosis MBA 5'10" Titan Executive Seeks Suitably qualified Employed Brahmin Girl.Ct/whatsapp:7401045653

STAR ASHWINI, Udithya Gothram, Jan 75 born, 40L PA, Divorced (Unconsummated Marriage) Chennai based, Tamil Brahmin Iyer Boy Seeks Unmarried / Divorced Family Oriented Brahmin Girl with Clean Habits. 9385807542, rajeshvenkataramani4@gmail.com

TAMIL IYENGAR Bride for 34/165, BE PGDM MNC Chennai Vadulam Uthradam Vadakalai. Ct: 9884755154

ALLIANCE INVITED from Brahmin Bride for Brahmim Bachelor (38) with good look and health, Sr. Business Consultant (IT) 60,000/–p.m + other income. Divorcee W.O issue, bride with small set back may contact 9789075763

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 11/08/1981,183cm,Kettai, BE (ECE), Director in IT-Startup, 18L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar, Unmarried / widow without issues CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

IYER, VADAMAL, Pourugutsigam, 06/04/1983,183cm, Uthradam, B.Com (CA-Final), GM-Finance in IT-Startup, 12L per annum, Coimbatore, sub-sect no bar. CT: 9945878994, 9940035935.

BRIDE WANTED

A High Profile, well-established (Business) Family in Chennai is looking for a Beautiful Girl for their Suave and Humble 29 year old son.
✆ 80726 23211

BRIDE WANTED

HINDU, NADAR, 45/5.7', Own Business, Well settled, Divorcee (without issue) seeks suitable Bride/ Divorcee (without issue) below 38 yrs with good family background. Same Caste.
Ct: 9042853519

TAMIL

Handsome Teetoller affluent MTech Software Developer 33 AD PR Seeks Beautiful Bride, No bars. Contact Email: armanojsurya@gmail.com / Mobile: 9442518999 / 9486114292

TELUGU

NAIDU PUNARPOOSAM 35 MBA Own Flat, seeks bride, good family background. Ct: 9445367047 / 9445367057

✔ **BALIJA, HANDSOME** 97 born very rich affluent business family seeks very fair and beautiful bride from high status and networth. Ct 7305010105

DEVANGA 38/170, B.Arch Thiruvadhirai, Self Employment Seeking Bride Degree with Job. CNB. Never Married, No Issues for widower & Divorcee without any Pbm. Ct: 9962135928

REPUTED NAIDU affluent Business Family in Chennai seeks Bride from USA, for their Son B.E., M.S. USA, 32 yrs,Vice President of a Global Bank in USA, Doctors from India also preferred. Ct: 9840050920

RICH KAMMANAIDU, 28/ B.Tech, Own 3 Spinning Mills, Wind Mills, (Only Son) Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002–61495

NAIDU 30/183 Handsome, MBBS, MS, Dr in Miot,2000000.PA,Decent Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

BRIDE WANTED

A affluent Telugu Naidu family Settled in chennai, Seeks alliance for their only Son - DOB : 02/08/1999, Meenam,Uthiratathi, 5.9', Very fair B.com, MBA, Father is a good Networth individual. Seeks Alliance from the Same Caste.
Ct: 98410 71701
sanjaychemicals2006@yahoo.com

URDU

SMU 29 BCA Tall Slim Fair Work in Exaware Seek Bride from Religious Progressive Family Whatsap 9840403377

A WELL employed Kerala muslim boy Bangalore based sr.engg, 32yrs seeking alliance from the muslim girls.Ph no : 9487885999, 9786509095 (Wapp)

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year DM/ MD/ MS Degree. Contact & Whatsapp: 9845614231

MUSLIM– 39 /5ft 6inch /Div /Masters /IT /Software /Infosys lkng for edu girl Ph: 8951722097

MUSLIM/SHAIK. AMZAD ALI, 29YRS, 170CM, Fair, MBA (VIT-TN), MS(USA), IT Project Manager (USA), 93 Lakhs P.A. Native of KADAPA, Residing at HYDERABAD, Seeks Bride. Cell:8919841945 .

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FINANCE

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7418913905

FINANCE

FINANCE AGAINST Properties Industries & abroad projects.Ph–09344260264

SHARES / INVESTMENTS

ANY–ONE INTERESTED in Investing 50 % Share in New High End Resort in OOTY, Tamil Nadu. Ct: 9500108888

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THE HINDU

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HC stays FIR against Rahul Gandhi and others in copyright violation case

In its complaint lodged before the Yeshwantpur police, MRT Music had alleged that popular songs and audio clips of *KGF Chapter 2* were illegally used to promote Mr. Gandhi as hero and a mass leader

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed further proceedings based on the First Information Report (FIR) registered against Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, and Supriya Shrinate for allegedly illegally using songs of film *KGF Chapter 2* to promote the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra on social media platforms.

A Bench of Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the interim order on December 16, Friday, on the petition filed by the three leaders questioning the legality of the FIR registered on November 4, 2022, on the complaint lodged by M/s MRT Music, which holds copyright for the film's songs.

A file photo of Congress leaders during Bharat Jodo Yatra.

It has been claimed in the petition that the allegations levelled against the party leaders are civil in nature, and does not contain ingredients for constituting criminal offences.

The petitioners have also contended that the complainant on November 2, 2022, had initiated a civil suit against the three leaders before a commercial court on the same allegations.

"The allegations made in the complaint are prima facie malicious, misconceived, politically motivated, and to dodge to extract money from the petitioners who hold high positions in the Indian National Congress party," it has been alleged in the petition.

What complaint said

In its complaint lodged before the Yeshwantpur police, MRT Music had alleged that popular songs and audio clips of the film were illegally used to promote Mr. Gandhi as hero and a mass leader. The FIR was registered under the provisions of the Copyrights Act, the Indian Penal Code, and the Information Technology Act.

It has also been alleged in the complaint that the leaders have used the party's logo on the videos uploaded on social media along with the film's songs, thereby falsely portraying that they own the contents, including the songs of the film.

International birding app now available in Marathi, Malayalam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Now, birders across Maharashtra and Kerala can read the description of 300 bird species found in the respective States in their local language, according to Bird Count India, which has launched two Indian languages in the Merlin bird identification app.

"India is a linguistically diverse country, and birdwatchers in India speak so many languages. Still, our most popular bird identification books and websites in India are in English and targeted towards a small section of the public. In an effort to bridge this gap, Bird Count India has launched two Indian languages in the Merlin bird identification app," a release stated. Cornell University in the U.S. develops the Merlin app; they enable regional partners like Bird Count India to translate the bird identification material into any language of their choice.

In more languages

"Marathi and Malayalam are just the beginning of our translation project. We plan to partner with more NGOs in all States to launch bird identification descriptions in every regional language," says Praveen J., Bird Count India.

Merlin app already supports the regional language names of birds in six other South Asian languages – Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Odia, and Telugu.

"However, names themselves are not sufficient as the description of each bird is still in English. The larger vision is to make the best material for birdwatchers in every Indian language – freely accessible at the fingertips of every user through their smartphones. The same descriptions are also available on the website of eBird and displayed based on the language preference of the user," the release added.

"Language should never become a barrier for our people to gain knowledge. With greater knowledge comes greater responsibility for conservation. I look forward to the launch of the Hindi text of Merlin bird identification," said Hakimuddin Saify, who comaintains Hindi names of birds in Merlin.

Minister of Health Sudhakar and delegates during PHANA's 3rd National Health Summit in Bengaluru on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Members of PHANA seek simplification of licence renewal and AB-ArK package rate revision

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) in Karnataka, who are unhappy about the low rates fixed for various procedures under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) health scheme, on Saturday appealed to the State government to revise the rates at the earliest.

The members, who deliberated on various issues and challenges faced by private hospitals at the two-day health summit organised by PHANA in the city, said the low rates have kept away many hospitals from getting empaneled for the schemes.

"Now, the Yeshaswini scheme is being reintroduced with the rates that are even lesser than CGHS and AB-ArK rates. We want the government to set up a scientific costing committee that involves representatives from the private hospitals and work out a rational rate chart," said outgoing PHANA president H.M. Prasanna.

Review COVID bills

Seeking review of bills raised by private hospitals for treatment of COVID patients under AB-ArK, he said some bills have been rejected for clerical and procedural lapses.

"While we appreciate the audit process and scrutiny of hospital bills by the government, we want the government to review bills that have been rejected for delays in submission or due to minor lapses in online procedures. These bills are otherwise accurate in terms of treatment, tariffs and patient outcomes. These clerical mistakes happened due to staff shortage issues and stress of work during the pandemic," he claimed.

Licence renewal

In a memorandum submitted to the Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, who inaugurated the summit, PHANA members urged the government to simplify the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act licence renewal process and make it seamless and online only. They have sought that renewal should be mandated once in five years and not every year as is the norm now.

Mr. Sudhakar assured the private hospitals that he will speak to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and try to put in place a single-window system. He said the fire NOC renewal period will be increased to three years.

Lack of transparency

Calling upon PHANA to work towards ensuring affordable and accessible healthcare, the Minister pointed out that a few private hospital chains lack adequate transparency.

"I urge PHANA to look into this issue to ensure that digital medical records are made available to the government. This is because, unless we have adequate data, the government cannot come up with effective health programmes both at the State and national levels," he said.

Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE — THE HINDU

EDUCATIONAL

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Salary Range for fully qualified and experienced candidates
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❖ Head Mistress (1)
Applicants must be Graduates and / or Postgraduates in the subject that they are applying for, with a high level of proficiency in English and possess a Teacher training / B.Ed degree.
Interested candidates may submit their applications online with a covering letter by **SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2023.**
To: The Correspondent at applications@scudderschool.ac.in
(or) by post / courier to: The Correspondent
No: 1,Kalinjur Main Road, Viruthampet, Vellore-632 006.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Bindulekha D/O, Vasantha Kumari R/o 408, 7th Main, 17th Cross, A Block, 2nd Stage, Malleswaram West, Bangalore-560055 have changed my name to Bindulekha Vasantha Kumari for all purposes.

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GENERAL

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GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26 ADDL., CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. No. 25925 / 2020
Between
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Ramesh., ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Mr. Ramesh.,
S/o. Mrs. Sujatha,
Aged about 46 years,
Residing at No. 6-22,
10th C Main, 6th Block,
Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010
Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of Rs. 2,09,080.75 (Rupees Two Lakhs Nine Thousand and Eighty Paise Seventy Five Only) together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the Suit to till the date of decree.
Hence, the Defendant hereby gave this notice to appear before the 26th Addl. City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall at Bangalore Court (CCH: 20) on 08/02/2023 At 11:00 A.M. either personally or through his Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex- parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 14th day of December 2022.
Place: Bangalore
Date: 07/12/22
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall (Unit) Bangalore
Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C. & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors,
No. 66, 4th Cross,
Xavier Layout,
Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26th ADDL., CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE CCH:20
O.S. No. 25932/2020
BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd., ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. M. Venkatesh., ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Mr. M. Venkatesh.,
S/o Mrs. Ratnamma, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No. 430, Jagajeevan Ram Nagar, Hulimangala, Bangalore - 560 076
Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of **Rs. 2,78,615.99 (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen Paise Ninety Nine Only)** together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the Suit to till the date of decree.
Hence, the Defendant hereby gave this notice to appear before the 26th Addl., City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall at Bangalore Court (CCH:20) on **06/02/23** at **11 A.M.** either personally or through his Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex- parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 14th day of December 2022.
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court,
Mayohall (Unit), Bangalore
Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors,
No. 66, 4th Cross, Xavier Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL &SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
O.S. No. 2450/2021
Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative Mr. Pramodh G ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Chandrashekhar C. ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendants :
Mr. Chandrashekhar C.,
S/o. Venkataiah Chattla,
Aged about 39 Years,
R/at No. GH-51, 2nd Cross,
Sri. Ramanagari Murugeshpalya,
Near Total Mall, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560017
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 7,63,017/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-70), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 01/02/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 13th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', # 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE. (CCH-31)
O.S.No. 4515 of 2020
Plaintiff :
M/s.ICICI Bank Ltd;
Having its Regd. Off. at Mytree Centre, No.4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. By its Debt Collection Manager: Sri. Santosh A Kulkami, S/o. Sri. Anant K. Kulkarni
VERSUS
Defendant :
Mr. Ponen Longchar,
S/o. Tsukti Longchar
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT :
Mr. Ponen Longchar,
Aged about 29 years,
S/o. Tsukti Longchar
Residing at No. 20,
Kothanur Post and Village,
Near Telephone Exchange,
Bangalore-560 077.
WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Rs. 2,48,345/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Five Only) together with future interest at 11.70%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the 7th day of February of 2023 to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 08/12/2022
By Order of the Hon. Court,
Dy. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore.
SD/-
ALTAF HASAN, Advocate, No.60, G-3, Ground Floor, M.M.Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BANGALORE. (CCH-31)
O.S.No. 4516 of 2020
Plaintiff :
M/s.ICICI Bank Ltd;
Having its Regd. Off. at Mytree Centre, No. 4, 101 Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560068.
Reptd. By its Collection Manager: Sri. Santosh A Kulkarni, S/o Sri. Anant K. Kulkarni
VERSUS
Defendant :
Mr. Kamsali Suresh Achari, S/o Mr. Kamsali Subbanachari
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT :
Mr. Kamsali Suresh Achari, Aged about 27 years, S/o. Mr. Kamsali Subbanachari
Residing at 96th Cross, Ramanna Compound, Near Ganesh Temple, Mangammanapalya, Bommannahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
WHEREAS the plaintiffs have instituted the above suit against you seeking to recover a sum of Directing the defendant to pay a sum of Rs. 4,05,245/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Five Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Five Only) together with future interest at 12.59%, you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by pleader on the **07th day of February, 2023** to answer the same, failing which the suit/application will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on 08/12/2022.
By Order of the Hon. Court,
Dy. Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore.
SD/-
ALTAF HASAN, Advocate, No.60, G-3, Ground Floor, M.M. Complex, Chikka Bazaar Street, Tasker Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-051

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26 ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYOHALL, AT BANGALORE CCH:20
O.S. No. 25920 / 2020
BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd., ..Plaintiff
And
Mr. Sudheer K Nair., ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
Mr. Sudheer K Nair.,
S/o Mrs. Suprisan Devi,
Aged about 48 years,
Residing at No. D102,
Raja Rajeshwari Nivas,
Behind HTMT, Vijpayee Nagar, Garebhavi Palya,
Bommanahalli,
Bangalore - 560 068
Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of Rs.3,51,024.77 (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty One Thousand and Twenty Four Paise Seventy Seven Only) together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the Suit to till the date of decree.
Hence, the Defendant hereby gave this notice to appear before the 26th Addl., City Civil and Session Judge, Mayohall at Bangalore Court (CCH:20) on 08/02/2023 At 11:00AM either personally or through his Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex- parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 14th of December,2022.
By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall (Unit) Bangalore
Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors,
No. 66, 4th Cross,
Xavier Layout,
Bangalore- 560 047.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXIV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL &SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-35)
O.S. NO. 7018/2021
Between:
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And
Mr. Arjun Raja Nayak ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
Defendant:
Mr. Arjun Raja Nayak,
S/o Mr Raja Nayaka,
Aged about 42 Years,
Residing at No.1229, 17th Main, 1st Phase, Opposite HDFC Bank ATM, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560029.
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 10,35,805.83/-** along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XXXIV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-35), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 11.01.2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 09th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No.701, Queens Corner 'A', 3 Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXIV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL &SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-85)
COM. O.S. NO. 1342/2022
Between
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And
M/s. Om Sairam Traders & others ...Defendants
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC
To,
Defendants :
a. Om Sairam Traders
Represented by Proprietor-
Smt. Priyanka, Plot No. 17A, 1st phase, KIADB Industrial Area, Malur- 563160
b. Smt. Priyanka
Aged about 28 years.
R/at # Old No.57, Later No.62, Present No.62/1, 3rd Main Road 5th Cross Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-560018.
c. Mr. Bala sundar A
Aged Major, R/at # Old No. 57, Later No.62, Present No. 62/1, 3rd Main Road 5th Cross Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore- 560018.
Email-ID:
omsairamtraders99@gmail.com
Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 9,60,511.00/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXXXIV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-85), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 24/01/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 9th day of December, 2022 at Bangalore.
By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', # 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

INBRIEF

Decision on forming tribunal for GST cases in next meeting

Since several GST-related cases are reaching the High Court, a decision on forming a tribunal to hear them will be taken in the next meeting, said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Participating in 48th GST Council Meeting online on Saturday, he said that constituting a tribunal will help in the speedy solutions and also help in revenue generation for the State.

As there is exemption for government bodies from GST, discussions were held on extending this facility to entities like Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), BWSSB, and the like. What kind of services are to be given concession and amendments required will be discussed in the next meeting, said a release from the CMO.

Development board for nomadic communities set up

The Karnataka government has issued an order to set up a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Nomadic Communities Development Board for the upliftment of these communities which are among the most downtrodden. This is aimed at helping 51 communities among SCs and 23 communities among STs, as per the order. As per the 2011 census, there are 9,91,184 people belonging to nomadic and semi-nomadic communities. At the Central level, there is Development and Welfare Board for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities.

Amid border row, 10-day legislature session to begin tomorrow in Belagavi

The session will provide a platform for the government and the Opposition to assess their strengths and weaknesses in the northern region

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Amid the political slugfest on the border dispute between Karnataka and Maharashtra, the 10-day Winter session of the State legislature will commence on Monday in the border town of Belagavi.

As the elections to the Legislative Assembly are scheduled to be held April-May next year, this would be the last session of this government in Belagavi. Only the joint session and budget session of the legislature will be held in Bengaluru before elections are announced.

The session would provide a platform for the government as well the Opposition to assess their strength and weaknesses in the northern region ahead of elections.

Preparations under way to set up a shelter for security personnel coming for the legislature session near Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi. P.K. BADIGER

Key issues

Among the significant issues likely to dominate both the Houses are the alleged theft of voters' data, government's move to provide internal reservation among Scheduled Castes and the demand for increase in quota by various communities, sugarcane growers' demand for higher fair and remunerative price (FRP), and the delay in elections to rural local bodies.

The border issue with Maharashtra is likely to echo during the session, though Home Minister Amit Shah has asked both states not to claim any territory or make any demands till the Supreme Court gives its verdict. The Congress has claimed that the government has deliberately raked up the border dispute for diversion of attention from the real problems such as inflation, unemployment and corruption.

Among key issues, the principal Opposition Congress is expected to raise the alleged voter data stealing, with the tacit support of the BJP government, by Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, an NGO, in Bengaluru. This issue has generated political heat over the last month and there are allegations of similar scams outside Bengaluru.

As the government decided to increase the quota for SCs and STs by 2% and 4% respectively, leaders of various communities are expected to stage demonstrations before the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha seeking upward revision of reservation for them.

Significant among them is the long-pending demand of the Panchamashali Lingayats for quota under Category 2A of Backward Classes from the present Category 3B. Kurubas, who are presently OBCs, have been demanding to be bracketed under ST. The Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaligas too have been seeking a higher percentage of quota.

Delay in elections

The Opposition Congress and JD(S) are expected to question the government on the delay in holding elections to ZPs, TPs and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike citing delimitation of wards.

With elections close at hand, the Congress is likely to step up its allegations of '40% corruption' in recruitment and execution of public works, failure in handling Bengaluru's infrastructure, delay in getting clearances for the Mekedatu project and tardy progress of other irrigation projects

The government is expected to come under the scrutiny on the progress of investigations in the Mangaluru cooker blast case and sharing of dais with rowdies by BJP leaders at a function in Bengaluru.

From the treasury benches, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is expected to lead the attack against the Opposition by harking back on alleged corrupt deals during the previous Congress regime.

Bills related to land reforms and Kannada comprehensive development, which were tabled in the previous session in Bengaluru, are likely to get the legislature's nod.

Since the session is being conducted in Belagavi, issues of Kalyana Karnataka and North Karnataka regions are expected to dominate the proceedings.

On the first day, members will condole the death of Deputy Speaker Anand Mamani and other personalities.

Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri reviewed the security, transport and accommodation arrangements for the session. He is expected to announce the 'best legislator' award during the session. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was the first recipient of the award.

Nikhil will contest from Ramanagaram, announces Anitha Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ending speculation on who will contest from Ramanagaram constituency from Janata Dal (Secular), incumbent MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy announced on Saturday that her son Nikhil Kumaraswamy will contest from the seat in the 2023 Assembly elections.

Ms. Anitha made the announcement in the course of the ongoing Pancharatna Yatre of the party at Ramanagaram. "I trust that you will bless him like you have blessed me and my family," she said, speaking at the yatre.

Mr. Kumararaswamy, who spoke later, claimed he was taken by surprise by Ms. Anitha's announcement. "I know that people of this constituency will not fall prey to conspiracies. I am placing Nikhil in your lap and request you to treat him as a son and protect him like you have protected me." Mr. Kumaraswamy had earlier this year said that Mr. Nikhil will not be contesting 2023 polls.

JD(S) leaders H.D. Kumaraswamy, Anitha Kumaraswamy and Nikhil Kumaraswamy during the Pancharatna Yatre in Ramanagaram district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier defeat

Mr. Nikhil, grandson of JD (S) patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda, had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the party stronghold of Mandya, but was defeated by Independent candidate Sumalatha Ambareesh. Mr. Nikhil, an actor-turned-politician, is currently the Yuva Janata Dal president.

Speaking later, Mr. Nikhil said he was himself taken by surprise by his mother's announcement and he was content working as president of the young wing of the party. He promised that he would work for the constituency, which had nurtured his entire family. In the 2018 Assembly election, Mr. Kumaraswamy had contested from Channapatna and Ramanagaram, winning both. He had given up the Ramanagaram seat and Ms. Anitha had won the bypoll from the seat. It is learnt that Ms. Anitha is not keen to contest polls this time round.

One more from family?

Meanwhile, there are also rumours that Bhavani Revanna, another daughter-in-law of Mr. Deve Gowda, is hopeful of a ticket in 2023 polls.

Though JD(S) was supposed to release its first list of candidates for 2023 elections on Friday, the party had desisted from doing so for the second time. Mr. Kumaraswamy celebrated his 64th birthday on Friday.

PSI scam: Congress releases audio clips, raises ten questions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing the BJP government of trying to protect those involved in the PSI recruitment scam, Congress leader Priyank Kharge on Saturday released two audio clips with a purported conversation between Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and a PSI job aspirant.

In the audio clips, the aspirant is heard telling the Home Minister that there has been no action against those involved despite him providing evidence to the Minister. The aspirant is also heard asking the Minister not to go ahead with the recruitment of 402 police sub-inspectors.

Addressing pressperson here, Mr. Kharge said the Congress has ten questions for the government in the context of the audio clips. "I am wondering if they will issue a notice to us for this audio too," he said. Referring to the clips, he said that the Minister is heard telling the aspirant that the bail given to those arrested was due to some technical problem. "Is he indicating the inefficiency of government lawyers? Nearly 54,000 persons have been cheated. Those involved in the scam are out on bail. Is the government trying to hush up the scam?" he said.

Pointing out that the audio clips are being circulated on social media, Mr. Kharge said, "The aspirant also asks why only ADGP Amrit Paul was arrested when there was evidence against the DGP and Kalaburagi police commissioner? The Minister is silent. Should we think that his silence is an admission of guilt?" Alleging that the government itself does not know what is happening in the issue, he said: "The government had said it would not go ahead with fresh recruitment until investigation is completed into the recruitment of 545 PSIs. However, an order has been issued to go ahead with the recruitment of another 402 PSIs. We are ready for a discussion on this in the Belagavi legislature session. We demand that a judicial probe should be ordered into this case." Referring to reports about complaints against three more MLAs, he sought to know who the MLAs are. The BJP government ordered a CID probe following allegations of large-scale corruption in the recruitment of 545 PSIs for which exams were held in October 2021. Over 54,000 candidates had appeared for the exams.

'Truth will come out'

Meanwhile, replying to a question on the audio, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "I don't have information about that audio and the truth will come out through investigation."

'There is still a lot of opposition to social change'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alternative Law Forum (ALF), a Bengaluru-based human rights lawyers' collective, celebrated its 22nd year of work on Saturday with a public lecture on 'Constitution of India as a document for Social Reform: The Challenges Ahead.'

Keynote speaker S. Muralidhar, Chief Justice of the High Court of Orissa, drew on the discussions in the Constituent Assembly to show that the law is a tool for social change and that social movements are what propel legal reform. He said that despite judicial and legislative actions, there was still a lot of opposition to social change.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is brought to the notice of the general public that my clients **Mr.Tejraj.B,** S/o C.Babulal and **Mr.Kiran Kumar.B,** S/o.C Babulal, Residing at No.33, Purnima Nivas, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore-560 030 have negotiated to purchase the schedule mentioned property from the owners M/s. Supreme Agencies, No.19/2, (Old No.160) 5th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore 560 027.

The vendors **M/s. Supreme Agencies** have represented that they have lost the original documents pertaining to some sale transactions which was prior to their purchase of the schedule mentioned property, the vendors M/s. Supreme Agencies also state that they have filed a police complaint to that effect and also made a paper publication in "Deccan Herald" newspaper on 28-08-1994 to that effect.Any person having objection in the said sale transaction of schedule mentioned property between my clients Mr.Tejraj.B, Mr.Kiran Kumar.B, and M/s. Supreme Agencies may file objection before the undersigned advocate within seven days from the date of this notice failing which the transaction shall be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Site bearing No.17, New No.11, formed in Sy No.32/1, in Adugodi Village, Division No.46, (now called as Jalakanteshwara Main Road, Vinayakanagar, Bangalore) Bangalore 560 027, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 27 feet totally measuring 1620 Sqft.

Construction: Ground Floor, and First Floor,
Bounded on: East by: Road, **West by:** Site No18,
North by: Private Property, **South by :** Private Property,

J. RAVINDRAN Advocate
No.310, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Viveknagar, Bangalore-569947 Mobile :9900609429

New scheme to give 50% subsidy to weavers likely

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has announced that it would chalk out a scheme to give 50% subsidy to professional weavers. They would also get interest free loan up to ₹2 lakh.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday chaired a meeting with representatives of weaves community and officials and made this announcement later. It was also decided that Nekar Samman scheme would be extended to workers in powerlooms, according to a release.

Other decisions included issuing occupancy certificates for weavers residing in weavers' settlements and giving concession from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board norms for weavers who are doing weaving at home by considering it 'cottage industry'.

It was also decided at the meeting that quantity uniform required to be supplied under Vidya Vikas scheme from Karnataka Handloom and Powerloom Corporations would be fixed and tenders would be floated for the rest. Work order to this effect must be issued in December to ensure the supply at the right time, the meeting resolved. About 25% of uniforms required for various departments would be procured from Karnataka Handloom Corporation.

The government has also agreed to examine the possibility providing facilities to workers in weaving units on the lines of what is given to construction workers, and to take decisions before the presentation of State Budget.

It was Srinivas Prasad who led me to BJP, says Vishwanath

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A.H. Vishwanath, BJP MLC, on Saturday claimed that he felt uncomfortable in the JD(S) and was planning to return to the Congress in 2019, but was led to the BJP by its MP representing Chamarajanagar V. Srinivas Prasad.

When reporters approached him for a reaction to the charges levelled against him by Mr. Prasad, he said it was the Chamarajanagar MP who started the public debate by calling him a "political nomad". Seeking to set the record straight, Mr. Vishwanath said he worked with the Congress for 40 years before joining the JD(S). "When I was feeling uncomfortable in the JD(S) and was planning to return to the Congress, it was Mr. Prasad, who led me to the BJP to make B.S. Yediyurappa the Chief Minister," Mr. Vishwanath said. "I never liked the BJP. But, joined the party because of you (Mr. Prasad)," he said.

To questions on his possible return to the Congress, Mr. Vishwanath said if such a situation arose, he would go. If not, he said, he would continue in the BJP.

To another question, Mr. Vishwanath defended Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar's statement on the BJP's alleged efforts to divert public attention from the voter data theft issue by highlighting Mangaluru cooker blast. Contending that voting was the "soul" of democracy, Mr. Vishwanath said any effort to rob voting rights was a crime.

He said no political party, whether it is Congress, JD(S) or BJP had ever backed terrorists. The BJP was merely trying to make an issue out of it, he said while adding that he was the only person who speaks against his own party's faults.

Mr. Vishwanath also lashed out at the former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa for seeking a ban on the Congress. He said nobody can deny the Congress' role in securing India's freedom.

Election funds

Responding to Mr. Prasad's charge that he had pocketed about ₹10 crore of the ₹15 crore given by the BJP to him to contest the bye-election from Hunsur Assembly constituency, Mr. Vishwanath sought to know if the MP had any account of the money given by the BJP to him.

Memorial lecture

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rujuvathu and Bahuvachana are jointly organizing a U.R. Ananthamurthy memorial lecture on Sunday.

The lecture titled 'Culture and Identity in a hyper politicised age' will be delivered by Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Indian academician.

The event will be held at R.V. Teachers College Auditorium, 536, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Road, 2nd Block, Jayanagar from 11 a.m. onwards.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Respectful Homage

Sri. N. Srinivasan

27-7-1931 - 16-12-2022

A reputed Chartered Accountant, Sri NS was known for his professional ethics and expertise. He was associated with the Employers' Federation of Southern India for more than four decades as their Treasurer.

The Employers' Federation of Southern India

DEATH

Shri.R.BALAKRISHNAN (77)
Retd. Deputy Chief Engineer, (Electrical), PWD, Tamilnadu.

Passed away on 08.12.2022 to Attain the Lord's feet.
Cremated on 09.12.2022.

Deeply mourned by
Wife: Dr. Sowmini Balakrishnan
Daughter: Dr. Mathiarasi & Family
Phone : 73388 91745

Expedite vaccine supply for FMD: Stalin to Centre

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday wrote to Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala, requesting him to expedite the supply of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine for cattle to Tamil Nadu.

The letter said FMD vaccination in Tamil Nadu was due in September 2022.

The State had been requesting the Government of India to supply 90 lakh doses in a single instalment since June 2022.

But it was still waiting for the doses.

The timely availability of vaccines was essential to maintaining herd immunity among the susceptible cattle population and prevent the occurrence of FMD and subsequent economic losses to farmers.

The State had vaccinated all eligible cattle at six-month intervals from 2011 till 2019.

The vaccine catered to roughly 94 lakh cattle and buffaloes in Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that even during the previous round of vaccination in September 2021, the supply of doses was staggered.

Four arrested for accepting bribe from pvt. layout developer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta police arrested a member of Gauribidanur Town Municipal Council and three others, husbands of women members of the Council, including its incumbent president Roopa, allegedly while receiving a bribe of ₹20 lakh from a private layout developer.

The arrested have been identified as Anantaraju, husband of Council president Roopa, Mylari and Manjunath, husbands of two sitting women members of the Council and Gopinath, a member of the Council himself. The four were arrested at a resort in Rajanukunte allegedly red-handed while receiving a bribe from the complainant.

The complainant Manjunath Reddy is a private layout developer who has developed a layout in 8 acres of land with 131 sites in Gauribidanur. When he approached the Town Municipal Council to get khatas for all the sites, one of the accused took him to Anantaraju, who allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹40 lakh. Mr. Reddy lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta police, who laid a trap and arrested the accused while receiving the first instalment of ₹20 lakh bribe.

ESZ survey: LDF scrambles to mitigate resentment

Fearful of being dispossessed of their land, residents are on the warpath against govt.; Kerala extends deadline of the expert committee, constituted to conduct field studies, indefinitely

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Stiff opposition: A file photo of villagers protesting against the buffer zone regulations in Kerala.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) government is scrambling to limit the fallout of the groundswell of resentment against the results of the satellite survey conducted to identify the details of human habitation within the Supreme Court-proposed one-kilometre (aerial distance) encroachment-free buffer zone around 23 protected forests in Kerala.

Fearful of being dispossessed of their land, thousands of residents in 115 panchayats abutting forests in the State are on the warpath against the government. They allege that the government-sponsored satellite survey did not reflect the ground reality. It omitted countless houses and commercial establishments that existed in the intended ecologically sensitive zone (ESZ).

Earlier, the State tasked the Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre to conduct a satellite survey to catalogue the evidence of human habitation in the proposed buffer zone. It also constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of the former Chief Justice of the West Bengal High Court Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan to conduct field studies and record the details of structures in the suggested ESZs.

KCBC president Cardinal Baselious Cleemis said the expert committee needed more time to complete its field inspections before December 30, the deadline set by the administration.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan echoed a similar sentiment.

As per the demand, Kerala Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran on Friday extended the panel's deadline indefinitely.

Elephant Balarama shot at by farmer, but is out of danger

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A file photo of Balarama carrying the golden howda during Vijayadashami procession in Mysuru.

Elephant Balarama, who had carried the golden howdah during Mysuru Dasara on 13 occasions, was shot at by a farmer with a country gun but the pellets only bruised the aging tusker and it escaped with minor injuries.

The incident took place on Thursday night at Alalooru village in Periyapatna taluk. Deputy Conservator of Forests of Nagarahole C. Harsha Kumar said the accused, Suresh, was arrested and produced in court, which remanded him in judicial custody. He said Balarama, who is in his mid-60s and is retired, was grazing in the forests and personnel of Bhimanakatte elephant camp went in search of him late in the evening.

They heard a gunshot and ran in the direction from where the sound emanated and found Balarama in slight distress. Forest Department personnel immediately nabbed Suresh, said to be a farmer. Veterinarians, who reached the spot soon after, examined Balarama. Fortunately, the country gun had pellets and the elephant had suffered minor bruises, said Mr. Harsha Kumar.

The elephant is fine and roaming around in the camp and the bruises caused by the pellets have been treated, he added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and north Rajasthan. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.3	16.2	Kozhikode	—	33.2	23.0
Ahmedabad	—	340	20.1	Kurnool	—	33.1	20.8
Aizawl	—	—	7.9	Lucknow	—	24.0	9.1
Allahabad	—	26.3	8.4	Madurai	—	32.4	20.7
Bengaluru	—	28.4	15.6	Mangaluru	—	32.8	21.2
Bhopal	—	27.3	14.2	Mumbai	—	35.9	23.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.8	15.2	Mysuru	—	30.1	18.4
Chandigarh	—	22.9	7.8	New Delhi	—	24.7	6.0
Chennai	—	31.0	23.6	Patna	—	24.5	9.5
Coimbatore	—	31.4	19.1	Port Blair	—	30.3	26.5
Dehradun	—	22.2	7.6	Puducherry	—	31.2	20.7
Gangtok	—	14.5	8.6	Pune	—	31.2	19.2
Goa	—	33.2	21.0	Raipur	—	31.2	16.2
Guwahati	—	27.0	14.1	Ranchi	—	23.6	8.5
Hubballi	—	31.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.9	7.2
Hyderabad	—	31.0	19.5	Shimla	—	20.1	8.8
Imphal	—	24.1	5.1	Srinagar	—	12.5	-2.4
Jaipur	—	26.4	9.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	22.4
Kochi	—	31.6	23.0	Tiruchi	—	30.5	21.4
Kohima	—	19.0	6.2	Vijayawada	—	30.6	22.7
Kolkata	—	25.0	14.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.6	23.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	160	.56	52	107	
Bengaluru	6	42	.26	238	—	
Chennai	.25	.46	.45	228	135	
Delhi	.24	132	116	373	313	
Hyderabad	.28	.26	.72	146	135	
Kolkata	.26	.26	.33	306	212	
Lucknow	.10	.65	.96	281	202	
Mumbai	.17	.21	104	246	156	
Pune	—	.96	.90	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	.32	.28	.29	166	130	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 431 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2022-23/ 6992 Date:17.12.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (15) Works under KKRDB for indent No 162382, 162422, 162423,162424, 162426, 162427, 162428, 162429, 162431, 162408, 162409, 162410, 162411, 162412, 162413. 2) Estimate cost : Min Rs 49.20Lakhs Max Rs.97.30Laks. 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class IV, III & above. 4) EMD AMOUNT : Min Rs.99000.00 Max Rs. 195000.00. 5) Last date for quries : 29.12.2022 (17.30 Hrs). 6) Last date for Submission of bid : 30.12.2022 (16.00 Hrs). 7) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 31.12.2022 (16.30 Hrs). 8) Date of opening of Financial Bid :02.01.2023 (11.30 Hrs). 9) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 10) Note : GST Will be Paid Separately. 11) Website : www.e-proc.Karnatak.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/973/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bidar District, Bidar-585401, Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262
E-Mail: itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com
No: MUN/Works/Cr-4/2021-22 Dated: 14-12-2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of work: Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) in Bidar DUDC limits through PPP mode (Indent No. DUDC/works/CR-/2020-21/call-5). 2) Estimated cost: As per e-portal. 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant: As per e-portal. 4) EMD amount: As per e-portal. 5) Pre BID meeting: 12-01-2023 11:00 AM. 6) Last date for submission of tender: 20-01-2023 04:00 PM. 7) Technical bid opening: 21-01-2023 04:30 PM 8) Address for communication: Project Director DUDC Bidar, DC Office Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email : itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com, 08482-229332. 9) Website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner, Bidar District, Bidar
DIPR/Bidar/376/MC&A/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-2 building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02
No.: BBMP/2022-23/IND773 **Date: 17.12.2022**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites short term tenders from eligible bidders for the following:
1) Tender for the supply of equipments and instruments to 243 Namma Clinics of BBMP
2) Tender for the supply of furnitures to 243 Namma Clinics of BBMP
3) Tender for supply of desktop computers and other items to 243 Namma Clinics of BBMP
Following are the Events of Bid process:

1	Tender reference numbers **1. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF FURNITURES TO 243 NAMMA CLINICS OF BBMP**	BBMP/2022-23/IND772
	2. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS TO 243 NAMMA CLINICS OF BBMP	BBMP/2022-23/IND773
	3. TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND OTHER ITEMS TO 243 NAMMA CLINICS OF BBMP	BBMP/2022-23/IND774
2	Date of Commencement of Download of Document from eProcurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in	From 16.12.2022
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in eProcurement.	19.12.2022 Up to 5:00 PM
4	Date, Time and address of Pre-bid Meeting	19.12.2022, 2:00 PM Office of CHO (PH), Ground Floor, Annexe-2 Building Bengaluru-560002. Phone: 080-22975516
5	Last Date for uploading tenders in eProcurement portal	23.12.2022
6	Tender documents may be downloaded from the web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**	

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP

Govt. of Karnataka Forest Department
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, CHITRADURGA DIVISION, CHITRADURGA, CHITRADURGA-577501
Ph: 08194230402 e-mail: dcf.cta@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಬಿಜಿಟಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್-01/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.12.2022
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders for the work of: 1) Unit No.: 249 - Erection of 2.601 Kms Chainlink Mesh Fencing around Nayakanahatti Hobli, Varavukaval Sy No 343, (Package-1) during 2022-23. Approximate value of work: Rs. 65,04,000.00. 2) Unit No.: 250 - Erection of 3.708 Kms Chainlink Mesh Fencing around Nayakanahatti Hobli, Varavukaval Sy No 343, (Package-II) during 2022-23. Approximate value of work: Rs. 92,70,000.00. 3) Unit No.: 251 - Erection of 3.691 Kms Chainlink Mesh Fencing around Nayakanahatti Hobli, Varavukaval Sy No 343, (Package-III) during 2022-23. Approximate value of work: Rs. 92,26,000.00.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: 1) Tender documents will be available in e-procurement portal: **15.12.2022 onwards**. 2) Last date and time for tender quarries and clarifications: **22.12.2022**. 3) Last date and time for Uploading bid documents: **22.12.2022 up to 4.00 P.M**. 4) Last date and time for opening of tender in the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga 577501: **23.12.2022 at 04.30 P.M**. 5) If the First Tender is not successful second call Schduled from: **26.12.2022 to 02-01-2023 at 04.30 P.M**. Address for communication: **Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chitradurga Territorial Forest Division, VP Extension Chitradurga 577501.**
Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests Chitradurga Division, Chitradurga
RO No. 769: DIPR/CTA/MCA/2022-23

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, P.U. Building, 9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
No.EE/SN/TEND/16/2022-23 Date: 15-12-2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Single Cover System) **KW-1**
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagar Division), BBMP, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximat value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Emergency works in Preparation of Ground for Celebration of Republic Day on 26/01/2023 at Manikshaw Parade Ground, Bengaluru in Ward No. 181 (Old No.111), Shanthalanagara for the financial year 2022-23.	20.00	50,000

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from : **19-12-2022. (2)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on **30-12-2022** on or **before 4:00 p.m. (3)** Bids will be opened on **31-12-2022 at 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Udupi
"Rajathadri", B Block, 1st Floor, Room No B-208, Manipal, Udupi.
NO:EE/RWSSDU/TenderNo.40/2022-23/1408 Dated:16.12.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION.
Tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of Karnataka in "TWO COVER SYSTEM" through Government of Karnataka E- Procurement portal for 2 no of work varying costs Rs,. 560.26 to Rs. 579.41 Lakhs sanctioned under JJM. Eligible contractors shall apply for this tender. (The tenders submitted by the Contractors executing JJM works and failed to complete the work within stipulated period shall not be considered.
Calender of Events
1. The Contractor can download the Tender Document from : 16.12.2022
2. Last Date for Submission of tender : 30.12.2022 04.00 pm
3. Opening of Technical Bid for the Tenders : 02.01.2023 11.00am
4. Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender : 04.01.2023 11.00am

The blank tender documents can be viewed or downloded from E-proc portal, Details of work/eligibility of contractor /Tender processing fees/dates of events etc. can had from website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours. Right of acceptance of tender is reserved. e-proc portal hepdesk : 080-22371090/22373788, Hphlepdesk.blr @intarvo.com
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division. Udupi.

Office of The Deputy Director (KHAGRA)
Industries and Commerce Department
District Administration Complex, C-Block, Room No.-C-5, 2nd Floor, Chittapura Road, Yadgiri - 585202.
e-mail: ddkviyadgir@gmail.com 08473-253791
Mobile No.: 7892578523
No.: ZPY/DD(Khagra)/e-Tender/2022-23 Date: 14.12.2022
e-Procurement Tender Notice
(**Inviting Tender through E-Procurment**)
e-Tender is invited through e-procurement from holders of Authorised Dealer Certificate and from manufacturers for supply of below mentioned equipment to Working Handicraftsmen and Sewing Machines to women in all Taluks of Yadgiri District under District Industries Centre and supply of improved equipment to Working Handicraftsmen Schemes for the year 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Details of materials	Approx. Amount	E.M.D. Amount
1	Sewing Machine with ISI Mark	63,00,000/–	1, 57,500/–
2	Dhobi	20,00,000/–	50,000/–
3	Carpentry		
4	Barber		
5	Goundi		
6	Blacksmithy		
	Total	83,00,000/–	2,07,500/–

Supply Order will be issued against the Grant released from the Zilla Panchayat.
Tender Schedule Dates under e-procurement system are as below.
1) Tender Notification No.: ZPY/DD(Kagra)/e-Tender/2022-23. 2) Tender Notification Date: 14.12.2022. 3) Date and time (IST) for submitting the Model equipment: 29.12.2022 within 5.00 PM. 4) Last date and time (IST) for submission of filled Tender Form: 09.01.2023 within 5.00 PM. 5) Date and time (IST) of opening the Technical Bid: 10.01.2023 at 5.01 PM. 6) Date and time of examining the Model equipment: 13.01.2023 at 11.00 AM. 7) Date and time (IST) of opening the Financial Bid: 17.01.2023 at 11.00 AM. 8) Place of opening the Tender: Office of the Tender Committee Chairman and Deputy Secretary, Z.P., Zilla Panchayat, Yadgiri.
Tender Documents and necessary details can be obtained by downloading from the e-procurement portal of GoK https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in after paying the application fee as per rules. For further information the undersigned officer can be contacted during office hours.
SD/- Deputy Director (Khagra), Industries and Commerce Department, Zilla Panchayat, Yadgiri.
DIP/Yadagiri/359/MCA 2022-23

From Page One

FOMO strikes ULFA(I) youth

ULFA was formed in April 1979 as an offshoot of the Assam Agitation that sought to free the State from foreigners. The outfit split into the larger pro-talks group and the Paresh Baruah-headed anti-talks faction, which renamed itself the ULFA (I) in 2013.

Online recruitment
In February, the ULFA(I) issued a statement trashing "theories" that it undertakes recruitment drives through social media platforms. It blamed the Assam police and the Army for creating fake Facebook accounts in the name of the outfit to lure job-seeking youth who are later shown to be arrested for "vested interests".

But in April, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma insisted that the outfit had used Facebook, YouTube and other platforms to lure and induct at least 47 boys and girls into its ranks within a few days. He also indicated that the outfit was losing its members at a faster rate than before.

Better connectivity
Assam's Additional Director-General of Police (Special Branch), Hiren Chandra Nath said that the ULFA(I)'s support base had eroded vastly in the past few years due to the improved connectivity – surface as well as telecom – that has ensured rapid development.

"The outfit does find a few gullible youths who join thinking they will get some monetary benefits. There were a few cases of boys who crossed over after failing in police recruitment tests, but the cadre strength has been dwindling," he told *The Hindu*. An Army officer associated with rehabilitation programmes for surrendered extremists in eastern Assam said that the outfit is finding the "mobile phone" generation harder to control than those in the past.

Recruits dwindling
Information gathered from surrendered extremists also points to the outfit finding fewer takers than in the past. The ULFA(I) now struggles to have 10 trainees for each of its new training batches, compared to 200-300 a decade ago.

Hiranya Moran, the president of the 35-member Prakton ULFA Swadhin Oikya Mancha (a platform for former ULFA(I) members), agreed that the outfit's goal of an independent Assam is no longer feasible. "But there will be some people joining the *sangathan* unless the government ensures only locals can sustainably exploit Assam's resources for livelihood," he said.

Apart from pre-training teenagers to improve their chances of recruitment in the security forces, the Army has been organising vocational courses and coaching classes to prepare local boys from underprivileged families for admission to top colleges across the country. This outreach is also usually done through social media platforms.

GST Council keeps rate same, defers reforms

It decided to curtail its meeting after some States' Ministers cited 'other committed business' and requested that the meeting be concluded at about 1:30 p.m. Of the 15 items on the agenda, eight were taken up and approved by the Council including a decision to scrap the 5% GST levy on a cattle feed ingredient – husk of pulses; and the reduction of the levy on ethyl alcohol used by refineries to blend with petrol to 5% from 18%. "Extending the 5% tax levy for ethyl alcohol, allowed for oil marketing companies to blend with petrol, to refineries will further reduce our dependence on imported crude and save precious foreign exchange," Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said.

The Council's major decision, he said, was to decriminalise GST offences that pertain to obstruction or preventing any officers from discharging their duty, deliberate tampering of material evidence and failure to supply the information, while doubling the threshold limits of tax amounts for initiating prosecution from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore for all offences other than fake invoices.

"To reduce the workload of courts, the compounding amount under certain offences has been reduced from 50% to 150% of the amount, to 25% to 100%," Mr. Malhotra said.

SC rejects Bilkis's plea to review its May verdict

"Indisputedly, in the instant case, the crime is committed in the State of Gujarat which is the appropriate Government competent to examine the application filed for premature release," the apex court had observed.

The judgment in May was pronounced on the basis of an application filed by one of the convicts, Radheshyam Bhagwandas Shah, alias Lala Vakil, for premature release in terms of its remission policy of July 9, 1992. The 1992 policy was prevalent on the date of conviction. The Supreme Court had followed a precedent set through an earlier judgment in *State of Haryana versus Jagdish*, which had held that the policy applicable at the time of conviction must be considered for deciding an application of premature release. Ms. Bano has said the remission policy of Maharashtra, where the trial happened, would have governed the case.

A simultaneously filed writ petition by Ms. Bano is yet to be heard by the court.

Pendency poses a hurdle to Supreme Court's role as protector of citizens' rights

CJI says the top court has to hear every little cry for personal liberty and safeguarding rights, but Law Ministry figures given in Parliament show big backlog of cases that may mar the good work

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has said the very purpose of the Supreme Court is to hear every little cry for personal liberty and protection of the Fundamental Rights.

But pendency is a perennial drawback that affects the court's role as the timely protector of citizens' rights.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has reportedly said the court is bogged down in "frivolous" public interest litigation and bail applications. The "extra burden" has reduced the efficacy of justice administration. The government's zeroing in on bail applications as one of the reasons for slow justice comes at a time when 10 bail pleas are heard every day by all 13 Benches of the Supreme Court. The CJI has made it clear that bail petitions deal with the question of personal liberty and should not be delayed.

Moreover, PIL petitions like the one for an independent and neutral mechanism for appointment of Election Commissioners have raised important issues, with a Constitution Bench recently pointing out orally how the government is paying mere "lip-service" to the independence of the poll body by appointing bureaucrats who cannot even complete the statutory six-year tenure in office.

But the statistics do show pendency as a constantly looming shadow, threatening to engulf the good work.

In fact, an exasperated Chief Justice Chandrachud in November remarked that "widened access to the Supreme Court" is making things dysfunctional. The Chief Justice said the judiciary is "overburdened because of the system".

Figures in Parliament reveal that there are 498 Constitution Bench cases pending in the Supreme Court as on December 13, 2022.

Unfinished business
Law Ministry data presented in Parliament highlight the large number of cases pending before the Supreme Court

Case type	No. of pending cases as on December 13, 2022
Constitution Bench	498
Election	487
Public interest litigation	2,870
Special leave petitions	4,331
Writ petitions	2,209
Contempt of court	1,295
Labour	1,667

2,870 PILs pending
Public litigation petitions claim a large portion of the court's space with 2,870 of them pending. Special leave petitions and writ petitions number 4,331 and 2,209, respectively.

There are 487 pending election matters in the top court. The total number of pending cases concerning crimes against women relating to "harassment, dowry cruelty and death, sexual harassment, domestic violence" are 283, according to data from the Integrated Case Management Information System. Some of these cases date back to 2014. Contempt of court cases alone number 1,295 in the Supreme Court as on December 16, 2022.

The statistics placed on record by the Law Ministry in Parliament show that the Supreme Court has disposed of 10 Constitution Bench cases in 2022 as on December 13; a substantial 29,866 special leave petitions; 974 PIL pleas, which is about double the number disposed of last year; 1,316 writ petitions; 286 election cases and 1,590 contempt matters.

In its reply in the Lok Sabha in December on the "reasons behind the delay in disposing of cases", the Law Ministry said it was a "multi-faceted problem".

"With an increase in the population of the country and awareness among the public of their rights, filing of fresh cases is also increasing by leaps and bounds, year after year. Each case is distinct and variable in nature, therefore, no specific timelines can be determined concerning disposal of cases. Myriad factors come into play," the Ministry said.

Vacancies of judges, frequent adjournments and lack of adequate arrangements to monitor, track and bunch cases for hearing are also factors which lead to pendency.

Constitution is a moral education document: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday said the Constitution was a moral education document which was aimed at creating a moral code of conduct in society.

"Our Constitution was designed not for people as they were, but what they ought to be. It is the flagbearer of our Fundamental Rights. It guides us in our daily life," he said, while delivering the Ashok Desai Memorial Lecture on the 90th birth anniversary of the former Attorney-General. The CJI went on to say, "We rectified the injustice, Section 377 (unnatural offences, of the Indian Penal Code) was based on morality of a bygone era. Constitutional morality focuses on the rights of individuals and protects it from popular morality notions of the society."

Guiding force
Referring to striking down of the provision of adultery in the IPC, he added, "The values of a progressive Constitution serve as a guiding force for us. They convey that our personal and professional lives aren't divorced from the Constitution."

The 50th CJI said, "People have faith in the courts for protecting their personal liberty. Difference between law and morals is nebulous. Legal positivists have said that law and morality are connected."

He cited an article about a 15-year-old girl who was a victim of "honour killing" in Uttar Pradesh by her parents in 1991. "They would be justified because their morals are like that. But that won't be the approach of rational thinking people. Every year, hundreds of young people die because of their love with someone else," he said.

Justice Chandrachud also questioned, "Who decides the code of conduct or morality? The dominant groups, which overpower the weaker ones."

The lecture was titled, "Law and morality – bounds and reaches".

Justice Chandrachud said Desai often defended rights of the marginalised section of society. He cited a case in which Desai defended the theatre play of Vinay Tendulkar, which was considered to be vulgar. Talking about the play, he said, "Under the garb of morality, the state tries to violate freedom of speech and expression."

Assets of LeT 'commander', banned outfit seized in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

The property of an active Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) 'commander' was attached in Doda district of Jammu region, and 11 immovable properties were seized of the now banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in four districts of Kashmir on Saturday.

A plot of land belonging to the absconding LeT 'commander' Abdul Rashid alias Jhangir from Doda's Thathri area, was attached in execution of a court order, officials said.

In Kashmir, the J&K Police's special wing, the State Investigation Agency (SIA), seized properties of the banned JeI at a dozen of locations in Ganderbal, Bandipora, Kupwara and Baramulla districts.

Rajouri killings: Army finds itself in a spot as J&K L-G, BJP seek probe

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

The Army found itself in a spot on Saturday over civilian killings, a day after it claimed that two youth were killed in militant firing outside an Army camp in Rajouri district of Jammu & Kashmir. J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and BJP State president Ravinder Raina criticised the killings and pressed for a high-level investigation.

Facing public outrage, Mr. Sinha announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for the families of the youth. Mr. Sinha described the incident as "very unfortunate".

"The price of a life cannot be set in monetary terms, but still I announce an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for each of the affected families," Mr. Sinha said.

Loud and clear: Members of the Awami Awaaz Party staging a protest in Rajouri on Saturday. NISSAR AHMAD

Taking a tough stand, the BJP demanded a high-level investigation by the Army and the police similar to the one conducted into the staged encounter in 2020 in Shopian, where three youth were killed and passed as militants by the Army.

"A high-level probe should be initiated in the case by the Army. The police should also form a special investigation team. There should be a transparent inquiry just the way investigation of the killing of three innocent youth from Rajouri in Shopian (encounter in 2020) was held and action was taken against the Army men," Mr. Raina said.

The BJP also raised the issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Northern Command chief and the General Officer Commanding of the 25 Infantry Division.

"J&K Director-General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh has also agreed to hold an investigation into the case," Mr. Raina said.

Describing the killings of two innocent youth as "sad and painful", Mr. Raina said, "Those responsible should face the rule of law. This country is run under the Constitution. No one is above the Constitution. It's the same for all. I am hopeful that the Army will show all sincerity and transparency while investigating the case."

Govt. extends deadline for comments on new data Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has extended the last date for receiving public comments on the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, till January 2. The earlier deadline was December 17.

Under the new draft Bill, the government has recommended penalty for significant non-compliance not exceeding ₹500 crore in each instance. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, pertaining to the new draft Bill, the government recently said that the draft Bill "sets out the rights and duties of the citizen (Digital Nagrik) and the obligations of the data fiduciary to use the collected data lawfully".

Setting up of Board
"As part of the compliance framework, it envisages the setting up of a Data Protection Board of India to determine non-compliance with the provisions of the draft Bill, impose penalty for such non-compliance, and perform such other functions as the Central government may assign to it under the provisions of the draft Bill or any law," it said.

The Centre said that the Information Technology (Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information) Rules, 2011, provided the security practices and procedures that a body corporate or any person collecting, receiving, possessing, storing, dealing or handling information on behalf of the body corporate is required to observe for protecting personal data of users.

CBI, Delhi Police, and FBI bust 'tech support' scam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Delhi Police have assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in busting a major scam, which duped thousands of U.S. and Canadian citizens over the past decade on the pretext of providing remote tech-support.

According to a U.S. Department of Justice statement, five men were charged in an indictment and a New Jersey woman pleaded guilty in connection with a trans-national technical support scam that targeted more than 20,000 victims, many of whom were elderly, in the U.S. and Canada, Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced on Friday. The fraud ring generated over $10 million in proceeds.

Accused Gagan Lamba (41) and Harshad Madaan (34), both from Delhi; Jayant Bhatia (33) of Ontario, Canada; and Vikash Gupta (33) from Faridabad in Haryana, have been charged in an indictment with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit computer fraud, and substantive violations of wire fraud and computer fraud. Gagan, Harshad, Jayant and one Kulwinder Singh (34) from New York have also been accused of money laundering and associated offences.

Harshad was arrested on December 14 and Vikas on the next day. The U.S. Attorney thanked the CBI and the Delhi Police for their assistance. Gagan is yet to be arrested, while Jayant was arrested by the Canadian authorities on request from their U.S. counterparts. Kulwinder was arrested in New York and released on a $1 lakh unsecured bond. Accused Meghna Kumar (50) has pleaded guilty.

Big fish in net: Deputy Commissioner of Police Pramod Kushwaha (centre) addressing a press conference. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

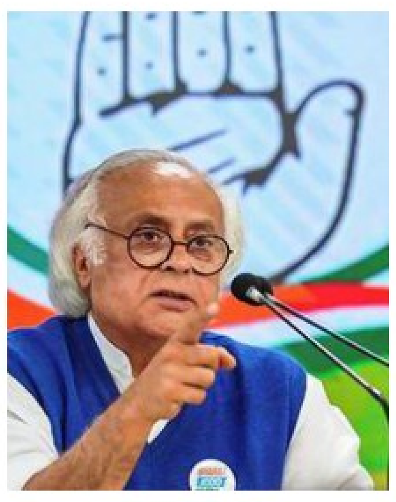
The accused persons gained access to the personal computers of victims. "They frequently preyed upon senior citizens and scared them into paying for unnecessary and useless computer repair services..," said the statement.

Explaining the *modus operandi*, it said the gang caused "fraudulent pop-up windows" to appear on the victims' personal computers. "The pop-ups were designed, at times, to 'freeze' the victims' computers, which prevented them from using or accessing files on their computers. The pop-ups also claimed, falsely, that the victims' computers were infected with a virus, or otherwise compromised, and directed them to call a telephone number to receive technical support," it said. Later, the victims were connected to one or more call centres in India associated with the gang.

The call receivers would convince the victims to remotely access their computers and would download and run a freely available "adblocker" tool and then claim to have resolved the issue, for which the victims were charged huge amounts.

When will the nation have 'China pe charcha': Cong. poser to Modi govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Jairam Ramesh

The Congress on Saturday stepped up its attack on the Narendra Modi government over the alleged Chinese incursions in Arunachal Pradesh.

In a statement, the party's communications chief, Jairam Ramesh, posed several questions to the Prime Minister, and said the incursion into Tawang was shortly after Mr. Modi shook hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Bali.

China continues to "unilaterally alter the boundary and the government needs to take the nation into confidence", he said.

Parliament discussion

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took to Twitter to demand a discussion over the issue in Parliament. He said the Chinese build-up in Doklam up to the Jampheri ridge was a threat to India's strategic Siliguri corridor, the gateway to northeastern States, and was of utmost concern for national security.

Tweaking a popular BJP slogan, he asked the PM when would the nation have a "*China pe charcha*".

His comments come a day after Rahul Gandhi had said "China was preparing for war while the Modi government was sleeping".

Hitting back at Mr. Gandhi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi accused the Congress of taking bribes from China in the form of donation for the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

"On June 20, 2020, why did you say that there has been no incursion by China into Indian territory in eastern Ladakh? Why have you allowed the Chinese to stop our troops from accessing thousands of square kilometres in eastern Ladakh where we were regularly patrolling prior to May 2020," Mr. Ramesh asked.

The party also asked why the government abandoned a July 2013 decision to establish a Mountain Strike Corps.

He also questioned why the PM was insisting that there should be no debate in Parliament on the border situation.

Mr. Ramesh also added the PM had a moral and political duty to answer these questions in his Mann Ki Baat programme.

Be it in Galwan or Tawang, our personnel have shown unmatched bravery: Rajnath

Alluding to Rahul's remark, Defence Minister says he won't question the intent of any Opposition leader; BJP chief Nadda criticises Congress MP for 'speaking the language of China and Pakistan'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

China threat: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaks at the 95th FICCI convention held in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday commended the Army for showing unmatched bravery during the clash with the Chinese People's Liberation Army in the Galwan Valley in 2020 and at Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh on December 9.

Mr. Singh asserted that India had no intention to capture the land of other countries, but would always be ready if anyone tried to cast an evil eye on its territory.

Addressing the 95th annual convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), he said India aimed to become a superpower which worked for the welfare of the world.

While 20 soldiers were killed in clashes at the Galwan Valley in Ladakh on June 15, 2020, several soldiers were injured in the Tawang sector on December 9.

Mr. Singh also took an indirect dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "doubting" the government's handling of the border row with China. "Any amount of praise is not enough for the armed forces for the way they displayed bravery and valour, be it in Galwan or Tawang... We have never questioned the intention of any leader in the Opposition, we have only debated on the basis of policies. Politics should be based on truth. Politics cannot be done on the basis of falsehood for a long time," the Minister said.

Expel Rahul: BJP

BJP president J.P Nadda accused Mr. Gandhi of speaking the language of China and Pakistan, while the ruling party sought his expulsion from the Congress. "We are all proud of the Army's valour and bravery. This raises questions about his patriotism. He had also questioned the surgical strikes [in 2016] and the Balakot airstrikes [in 2019]. It is a reflection of his mental bankruptcy," Mr. Nadda said in a video message.

At a press conference on Friday in Jaipur on his Bharat Jodo Yatra completing 100 days, Mr. Gandhi said China was preparing for war and the Centre was ignoring the threat. "China is preparing for an offensive in Ladakh and Arunachal, but the government is sleeping," he said.

Attacking Mr. Gandhi for "insulting" the Army, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, who represents Arunachal Pradesh in the Lok Sabha, said Mr. Gandhi was "damaging nation's image".

Sharing an old picture of Yangste where he is seen standing with soldiers, he said on Twitter, "Yangtse area in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh is fully secured now due to adequate deployment of the brave jawans of Indian Army."

INBRIEF

Mumbai sees protests by MVA and BJP over divergent issues

Mumbai witnessed two protest marches – *Halla Bol* on Saturday by the leaders of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) against the Eknath Shinde government and demanding the removal of Governor B.S. Koshiyari. The second protest, *Maafi Maango Andolan*, was led by the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), seeking an apology from the Shiv Sena, for insulting Hindu saints. The MVA's protest started near J.J. Hospital and continued till the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in south Mumbai, while the BJP's rally took place at different locations in the city. *Halla Bol* symbolises 'no tolerance for insults and hurtful remarks being made against Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. Savitribai Phule and others'.

CPI-ML demands solatium for Bihar hooch tragedy victims

A day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar asserted in the State Assembly that he has "no sympathy" for those died after consuming spurious liquor and that there would be no compensation for their families, an ally of the *mahagathbandhan* (grand alliance) government led by Mr. Kumar, the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML), on Saturday demanded compensation and rehabilitation for the family members of those died in the recent hooch tragedy. On December 16, Mr. Kumar sought support from the CPI(ML) in the State Assembly for prohibition, recalling their old association with him. A team of CPI(ML) leaders and legislators had visited the village of Chhapra in Saran district, where as many as 30 people had died so far following the alleged consumption of spurious liquor in dry Bihar. The Left party currently has 12 MLAs in the State Assembly.

States can pitch in for security of border areas, suggests Shah at eastern zonal meet

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Shared responsibility: Union Home Minister Amit Shah with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. PTI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired the 25th Eastern Zonal Council meeting in Kolkata where representatives from four States, including West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, were present.

The meeting at the West Bengal State Secretariat, which lasted over two hours, was attended by Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and Ministers from Odisha along with officials of the Union Home Ministry and officials of the States.

Issues of cross-border smuggling and illegal infiltration along the India-Bangladesh border as well as left-wing extremism were raised at the meeting.

According to sources, while Mr. Shah suggested that States share responsibility for security of border areas along with the Border Security Force, Ms. Banerjee said arms were being smuggled from other States into West Bengal.

"The Union Home Minister said left-wing extremism [LWE] has almost been eliminated from the eastern region and efforts should be made to sustain this decisive dominance," a statement by the Press Information Bureau said.

The meeting assumes significance as all the four eastern States are ruled by non-BJP parties.

After the meeting, Mr. Shah and Ms. Banerjee held a one-on-one meeting. None of the leaders, however, made any official statement about the meeting.

Speaking to pressperson later in the day, Leader of the Opposition and BJP MLA Suvendu Adhikari claimed that the Home Minister had told him that he had asked the Chief Minister for land for 72 BSF camps.

Chhattisgarh CM condemns Bilawal's remarks against PM, calls for 'befitting reply'

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel condemned Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While India has termed Mr. Bhutto Zardari's remarks – made in New York on Thursday – "uncivilised" and the BJP has made plans for nationwide protests over the issue, Mr.

We have different ideologies but this is about our nation and Modi is our PM, says Congress leader

Baghel has become one of the key Opposition leaders in India to have reacted to the recent controversy.

"I condemn the statement made by Bilawal Bhutto, a befitting reply must be given. No one has the right to make such a statement about our PM. We have different political ideologies but this is about nation and Modi is our PM," Mr. Baghel told *ANI* in Raipur on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a controversy erupted in Madhya Pradesh over tweets made by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He targeted the former Prime Minister's record on national security, in the context of the latter's son, Rahul Gandhi, saying that India was ignoring a threat of war from China.

Old pension scheme is a social security measure, says Gehlot

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Keeping a promise: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot speaks about the move to bring back the old pension scheme. PTI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday defended his government's move to restore the old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees, saying it was an important social security measure which would protect them in their old age. Mr. Gehlot said the employees with OPS coverage had contributed immensely to the nation's development.

The Central agencies had started criticising the OPS after the results of the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh were announced, as its restoration was a major issue in the poll campaign, Mr. Gehlot said at a press conference on the completion of four years of the Congress government in the State.

While affirming that the State governments were empowered to take a decision on the pensions payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the State, Mr. Gehlot said the Union government and the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (PFRDA) had refused to refund the accumulated corpus of Rajasthan, deposited under the National Pension System (NPS) introduced in 2004.

"We will fight it out... The Centre cannot withhold the corpus indefinitely. We will certainly give the OPS benefit to the government employees who joined the service on or after January 1, 2004. In fact, the OPS payment has already been approved for 238 superannuated employees," Mr. Gehlot said.

With the OPS becoming a new political battleground between the non-BJP ruled States and the Centre, Himachal Pradesh is the latest State, after Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Punjab, which has decided to replace NPS with the OPS. Mr. Gehlot said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was against the OPS since the beginning and the BJP had rejected the Himachal leadership's plea to allow its implementation before the election.

Mr. Gehlot said the State was within its power to take a decision on the pensions as per Entry 42 on the State List. He said the standing committee had reported about unrest among the labour and employees' unions against the NPS, as its amount was very low.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central – 1, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560 002
No:EE/P.C-1/TEND/10/2022-23 Date: 17.12.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

The Executive Engineer, Project Central - 1, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Name of the Works	Apprx. Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD
Construction of New Urban Public Health Centers Buildings at Rajarajeshwarainagara Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru	201.78	3.03 Lakhs (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-procurement & remaining as specified in bid document)
Repairs, Renovation and Upgradataion of Primary Health Centers & maternity Hospital in Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Limits, Bengaluru	253.15	3.80 Lakhs (Rs.1.00 Lakh through e-procurement & remaining as specified in bid document)

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **02.01.2023** upto **5:30** pm. (2) Documents may be downloaded through e-protal from **19.12.2022** onwards. (3) Last date for receipt of queries is **22.12.2022** upto **5:30** pm in the office of the Executive Engineer - Project Central-1, BBMP. (4) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **23.12.2022** at **4:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Project Central. (5) Technical Bids will be opened on **04.01.2023** at **11:30** am in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Central-1, BBMP. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project Central - 1

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

INVITING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ONLINE INTERVIEW

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for Online Interview for engagement of Guest Faculties in Shiksha Shastra in different Campuses of Central Sanskrit University, Delhi as per requirement for the academic session 2022-2023. For detailed notification regarding number of positions, submission of application, schedule, eligibility conditions, etc., please visit University website **www.sanskrit.nic.in**

REGISTRAR

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
रेल्वे अस्पताल के सामने, रातानाडा, जोधपुर – 342001

क्रमांक :– 1552 दिनांक:– 15.12.2022

:: ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या:– पूर्व/18 एवं 19/2022–23 ::

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग मे नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत ठेकेदार से सिविल कार्य हेतु मुहरबंद एवं ई निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा, शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

NIB CODE – 1. JOD2223A0196 2. JOD2223A0198
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राज.संवाद/सी/22/11865 अधिशाषी अभियंता (पूर्व)

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No.: EEM-4/YT/CCTV/137 Date:12.12.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

RPCL invites bids through GoK e-procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** under **"WORKS"** category for the work of **Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of CCTV Cameras in YTPS and one year AMC after completion of warranty period**. EMD: **Rs. 97,000/-**. Last Date & Time for the receipt of tenders: **21.12.2022, 15:00Hrs.** Date & Time for Opening Bids: **22.12.2022, 16:00Hrs.** Any further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer(M)-4, YTPS, RPCL, Yeramarus - 584 134, Raichur District.** Mobile: **+91 94806 82552.** Website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in.**

INBRIEF

Aftab says he is unaware of bail plea filed on his behalf

A Delhi court on Saturday deferred the bail hearing of Aftab Poonawala, accused of strangulating his live-in partner and chopping her body into 35 pieces, after he told the court that he was not aware of such an application being filed on his behalf. Replying to an inquiry by the judge on whether he intended to withdraw the bail plea, Mr. Poonawala told the court that he just signed on the *vakalatnama* but was not briefed about what it will be used for. When the accused appeared before Additional Sessions Judge Vrinda Kumari, he expressed the wish to meet his lawyer once. The court, hence, postponed the bail hearing for December 22.

Campaign to redress public grievances from December 19

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will be organising a nationwide campaign during the Good Governance week (December 19-25) to focus on improving service delivery and redressal of public grievances across all districts. The progress of the campaign, 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' 2022, will be reported by the District Collectors on a dedicated campaign portal. Over 700 Collectors will participate in the campaign where camps will be organised at tehsil and panchayat samiti headquarters to resolve public grievances.

Security beefed up in Tripura for Prime Minister's visit

Security has been tightened across Tripura for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the northeastern State on Sunday, officials said. The PM is expected to land at the Maharaja Bir Bikram airport at 2.25 p.m. and leave for Vivekananda Ground in Agartala, where he would be addressing a rally, said District Magistrate (DM), West Tripura, Debapriya Bardhan. He will also lay foundation stones and inaugurate multiple projects, besides interacting with the beneficiaries of the Central and State governments, Mr. Bardhan stated. The DM said that special trains have been arranged to ferry people from all over the State, to the rally. Polls are due early next year in the State. PTI

Resent against Governor's rule in Mizoram tribal council

An organisation of the Chakma community has resented the imposition of Governor's rule in a tribal council in Mizoram. According to a notification, the Governor's rule was imposed as Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu felt that the constant change of administration in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) due to political manoeuvring was damaging the welfare of the CADC and its people. "The CADC is a constitutional body having its own House. What matters is whether a party has the majority to prove it on the floor of the House or not. This was not done," Suhas Chakma of the Chakma Development Foundation of India said.

SUDOKU

9	3							
					4	5	3	
	2			5				7
		9	5				2	1
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6	5				2	4		
3				7			1	
	6	4	8					
							6	2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS5652 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	9	4	5	8	6	7
6	4	9	7	8	2	3	5	1
8	5	7	3	1	6	4	2	9
5	7	4	8	2	3	1	9	6
1	8	3	5	6	9	2	7	4
9	6	2	4	7	1	5	8	3
2	1	8	6	9	4	7	3	5
7	3	6	1	5	8	9	4	2
4	9	5	2	3	7	6	1	8

Govt. says breast cancer not a matter of 'national' or 'extreme' urgency

Centre makes the submission in response to a petition in Kerala High Court on high cost of breast cancer drug Ribociclib; it says the medicine did not fulfil conditions for a 'compulsory licence', given to emergency drugs, which will make it cheaper

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Out of reach: A compulsory licence is given to a drug if a large section of people are unable to access it. GETTY IMAGES

Breast cancer, by the government's estimate, is the leading cause of cancer in women in India. However, it does not qualify as a matter of "national" or "extreme" urgency in the Health Ministry's reckoning, suggest court filings as part of an ongoing case in the Kerala High Court.

The case involves Saroja Radhakrishnan (now deceased), diagnosed with a type of breast cancer called 'Luminal A', which is among the most invasive and make up the bulk of invasive breast cancer cases. In her petition, in January this year, she argued that one of the drugs prescribed for her condition, Ribociclib, was "too expensive and unavailable at an affordable price" because it was patented and therefore India's generic drug makers, who routinely manufacture cheaper versions, were legally prohibited from making a version of the drug. Ribociclib is manufactured by the multinational pharmaceutical firm Novartis.

Most prevalent cancer

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in a report this month, said that 100.5 out of 1,00,000 women were being diagnosed with breast cancer. From the approximately 1,82,000 cases of breast cancer at present, the report has projected cases to rise to 2,50,000 by 2030. There was no break-up of how many of these were Luminal A cancer.

According to the World Health Organization, there were 23 lakh women diagnosed with breast cancer and 6,85,000 deaths globally. At the end of 2020, there were 78 lakh women alive who were diagnosed with breast cancer in the past five years, making it the world's most prevalent cancer.

The petitioner said that she and her husband had a joint income of ₹74,400 a month whereas expense on Ribociclib cost her ₹58,140. Adding other medications, the cost of medication was well above what she could afford and therefore the "unaffordable price of the medicine" impacted her right to health, which is a fundamental right under Article 21.

India's patent laws permit any drug, patented or non-patented, to be manufactured and made available at an affordable price, via a "compulsory licence", if the government is satisfied that a large section of people need the drug but are unable to access it, or if there is a "national emergency" or a health crisis that the absence of the drug is precipitating.

In June this year, the Kerala High Court directed the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), a Commerce Ministry body and one of the respondents in the case, to "consider compulsory licensing" of Ribociclib.

The DPIIT decides on the pricing of drugs and following a meeting, that included experts from the National Cancer Institute, the Drug Controller General of India and the Ministry of Health, decided that conditions necessary to issue a compulsory licence "were not fulfilled".

The DPIIT drew on comments from the Health Ministry which said that Ribociclib was among 42 drugs on which the "trade margin" was capped at 30% and there also weren't "claimants" who were demanding that it be domestically manufactured. *The Hindu* has viewed documents submitted to the High Court that contain the government's submissions.

Enough food grains in stock for schemes, says Centre

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said it has sufficient foodgrain stocks to meet the requirements under the food security law and other welfare schemes. The government is also regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities.

"Government of India has sufficient foodgrain stocks under central pool to meet the requirement of NFSA (National Food Security Act) and its other welfare schemes as well as for additional allocation of PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana)," a statement said.

About 159 lakh tonnes of wheat and 104 lakh tonnes of rice will be available as on January 1, 2023 as against the respective buffer norms requirement of 138 lakh tonnes of wheat and 76 lakh tonnes of rice as on January 1. As on December 15, around 180 lakh tonnes of wheat and 111 lakh tonnes of rice are available in the Central pool.

Arribada in Rushikulya

Mating season: A pair of Olive Ridley turtles in the Bay of Bengal as they congregate for mass nesting off the Rushikulya river mouth in Ganjam district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

'Only three ceasefire violations along LoC since 2021 agreement'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Only three minor incidents of "violations" were recorded along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kasmir after Indian and Pakistani Armies agreed to observe a ceasefire in February last year, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

At the same time, it said Pakistan continued to retain the "proxy war infrastructure" and "functionality" of terrorist training camps. The presence of terrorists in terror "launch pads" also vindicated that country's "persistent intent" towards India.

In a year-end review, the Ministry, referring to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, also said Pakistan continues to exploit the "narco-terror nexus" to radicalise and motivate innocent youth target vulnerable civilians.

Referring to the LoC, the Ministry said the situation has been relatively peaceful with both sides adhering to the ceasefire understanding reached between the directors-general of military operations.

Rajasthan sanctuary gets protection against ESZ shrinking

Fight for survival: A blackbuck and a raptor, steppe eagle, at the Tal Chhapar sanctuary in Rajasthan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mohammed Iqbal
CHURU

The famous Tal Chhapar blackbuck sanctuary in Churu district of Rajasthan has received a protective cover against a proposed move of the State government to reduce the size of its eco-sensitive zone.

The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) has also taken up a major project for the conservation of raptors in the sanctuary, spread in an area measuring 7.19 sq. km.

The Rajasthan High Court has intervened through *suo motu* public interest litigation to protect the sanctuary, taking cognisance of reports that its area was going to be reduced to three sq. km under pressure from mine owners and stone crusher operators. The court recently ordered a "complete prohibition" on any action to reduce the wildlife sanctuary's area.

The sanctuary is host to about 4,000 blackbucks, over 40 species of raptors and more than 300 species of resident and migratory birds.

A Division Bench noted that some exotic species of animals seemed to have been destroyed or relocated to other areas, following an increase in human population around the sanctuary, and unplanned and rampant construction activities.

The court further directed the authorities concerned to complete the formalities for declaration of the eco-sensitive zone surrounding Tal Chhapar at the earliest.

In India's beedi hub of Murshidabad, exclusive hospital for workers of the industry lacks doctors and facilities

Shiv Sahay Singh
DHULIYAN

When a health worker was stitching up a wound on a patient at the Central hospital for beedi workers at Dhuliyan in Murshidabad district of West Bengal a few months ago, he had no inkling of what was in store. When power supply went off for load shedding, the generators could not be fired up.

Power cuts, a shortage of doctors and supporting staff, and a lack of funds and maintenance have been plaguing the country's biggest hospital for beedi workers for several years. The hospital was inaugurated in 2000 by the former President Pranab Mukherjee, while he was the MP for Jangipur.

Even on December 14, there was load shedding around 11.45 a.m. Hospital officials waited for the power to return, even as a few patients, mostly family members of beedi workers, waited helplessly in front of the outpatient department with small slips stamped with the seal of the Union Labour Ministry.

"We do not have the resources to fire the generators," a hospital official said, pointing out that the funds and future of the hospital have been in limbo since the Beedi Welfare Act, 1976 was repealed in 2019.

Forlorn structure: The Central hospital for beedi workers at Dhuliyan, which has been neglected by authorities. DEBASISH BHADURI

The 65-bed hospital, spread across 9.3 hectares of land on National Highway 12, has a sanctioned strength of 10 doctors, including four specialists, but at present, there is only one permanent doctor. "The physical infrastructure of the hospital, such as pathology, X-ray and USG machines, is gathering dust as there are hardly any technicians," another hospital official said.

Beedi workers, particularly women who roll beedis, face numerous health problems. The World Health Organization calls beedi-rolling "an occupational health hazard", pointing out that "the exposure to tobacco, nicotine, dust and other particles absorbed through the skin and nasopharyngeal route, endangers the health of beedi workers as well as their families."

Hub of beedi rolling

Murshidabad is the hub of beedi rolling in India. According to the data on the Labour Ministry's e-Shram portal, there are 21.11 lakh unorganised workers in the tobacco (that is, beedi) industry in the country. Of them, 12.43 lakh are in West Bengal, half of whom (5.22 lakh) in the district.

Outside the high walls of the hospital is the Tarapur colony. Almost all the women in the colony roll beedis at the rate of ₹175 for 1,000 pieces.

Tarifa Khatun, 26, suffers from tuberculosis. Though she lives in the colony, less than 100 metres from the hospital, she is seeking treatment several kilometres away, due to the lack of infrastructure at the Central hospital.

The hospital was set up with the mandate to provide free health services to workers and family members of beedi workers.

Nibha Das, 30, and Tulsi Das, 56, are among those who seek treatment at the hospital. While Ms. Nibha Das says she rolls 700-800 beedis a day, Ms. Tulsi Das has given up the work. Both complain of breathing troubles.

"Most of the women complain of dizziness which could be because of regular and continuous exposure to tobacco. The common ailments include COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and skin diseases," a medical officer at the hospital said.

On December 10, a team headed by a Joint Secretary from the Labour Ministry visited the hospital to see whether the health facility can be brought under the Employees State Insurance Corporation.

TUNIS

Tunisian people vote in elections shunned by Opposition parties

AFP

Tunisians voted in a lacklustre election on Saturday for a parliament with virtually no power, the final pillar in President Kais Saied's political overhaul. Opposition groups called for a boycott. They say the poll is part of a "coup" against the only democracy to have emerged from the 2011 Arab Spring. AFP

BUCHAREST

EU and Azerbaijan reach deal for electricity cable under Black Sea

AP

Azerbaijan agreed to supply the European Union with electricity via a subsea cable, inking a deal as the bloc diversifies energy supply away from Russia. Construction under the Black Sea is due to start next year linking Azerbaijan to Hungary via Georgia and Romania, although it is not expected to come on stream before 2029. AFP

KINSHASA

Flooding kills more than 160 people in DR Congo capital: UN

REUTERS

More than 160 people have died in the worst floods to batter DR Congo's capital Kinshasa in years, UN officials said. After an all-night downpour on Tuesday, major roads in the centre of Kinshasa, a city of about 15 million people, were submerged for hours and a key supply route leading to the port of Matadi collapsed. AFP

BERLIN

Olaf Scholz inaugurates the first liquefied gas terminal in Germany

AP

Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Saturday inaugurated Germany's first liquefied natural gas terminal in the the North Sea port of Wilhelmshaven. The move is a sign of the importance that Germany attaches to several new LNG terminals that the country is scrambling to build following Russia' s invasion of Ukraine. AP

Ukraine works to restore power after Russian missiles batter grid

Metro operations and water supply restored in Kyiv where a third of the residents are still left without electricity. Ukraine's energy agency says it will take longer than usual to restore power. Russian President holds meeting with military top brass

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Remedial measures: Ukrainian soldiers fire a Pion artillery system at Russian positions near Bakhmut in Ukraine on Friday. Ukrainian Army says it shot down 60 of the 74 missiles fired by Russia. AP

Ukraine worked on Saturday to restore electricity and water supplies after Russia's latest wave of attacks pitched multiple cities into darkness and forced people to endure sub-zero temperatures without heating or running water.

The volley of missiles unleashed on Friday came as President Vladimir Putin held extensive meetings with the military top brass overseeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, where Moscow has stepped up bombardments.

In the capital Kyiv, the metro had stopped running so that people wrapped in winter coats could take shelter at underground stations after air raid sirens rang out on Friday morning.

Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said the metro service was relaunched on early Saturday and water supply had been restored.

However, a third of Kyiv residents were still without power, Mr. Klitschko added.

Power was also restored throughout the eastern city of Kharkiv on Saturday, regional governor Oleg Sinegubov said.

Ukraine's national energy provider imposed emergency blackouts, saying on Saturday that the energy system "continues to recover".

Ukrenergo had warned the extent of the damage in the north, south and centre of the country meant it could take longer to restore supplies than after previous attacks.

Military proposals

During a visit to the army staff on Friday, Mr. Putin sought out proposals from his military commanders on how Russia should proceed with the Ukraine offensive, according to the Kremlin.

The Kremlin released footage of Mr. Putin presiding over a round-table meeting with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov among other top brass.

Russia fired 74 missiles – mainly cruise missiles – on Friday, 60 of which were shot down by anti-aircraft defences, according to the Ukrainian Army.

In the south, fresh Russian shelling in Kherson killed a 36-year-old man and injured a 70-year-old woman.

Erdogan says he has no role in the conviction of Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu

Agence France-Presse
ANKARA

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Saturday he had "nothing to do" with the jailing of Istanbul's popular Opposition mayor – an outcome set to prevent the latter from standing in next June's presidential election.

Ekrem Imamoglu's sentence following a politically charged defamation trial has caused an international storm.

He was sent down for "insulting a public official" after dubbing city election officials "idiots" during a controversial 2019 mayoral race.

But Mr. Erdogan insisted he had no hand in the verdict.

'Nothing to do with us'

"What is behind the storm sparked by a verdict these past few days? This debate has nothing to do with us – neither with me nor with our nation," Mr. Erdogan insisted, in his first comments on the subject since Wednesday's verdict.

'Games of thrones'

"We are sad to see that some are trying to conduct their games of thrones through us," the President added, suggesting reactions to the verdict resulted from rivalries within the Opposition.

Several tens of thousands of people demonstrated their backing on Thursday in Istanbul for Mr. Imamoglu.

He had established his credentials as an Opposition figure with the heft to break Mr. Erdogan's two-decade domination of Turkish politics after his mayoral success.

Mr. Imamoglu's conviction has been met with international criticism.

International outcry

The U.S. on Thursday declared itself "deeply troubled and disappointed" with his two years and seven months' jail term and associated ban from political activity, set to deny him a tilt at the presidency.

Germany meanwhile hit out at a "harsh blow for democracy".

Mr. Erdogan announced in June that he will stand again next year but a six-party-strong Opposition alliance has yet to designate a joint candidate.

"What does it matter to us who the Opposition candidate will be," Mr. Erdogan pondered rhetorically, as he urged the Opposition to have "the courage" to select its candidate.

Musk restores some suspended Twitter accounts of scribes

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk has reinstated the Twitter accounts of several journalists who were suspended after he accused them of endangering his family, with some of those targeted tweeting on Saturday they were back on the platform.

Mr. Musk had drawn anger and warnings from the EU and United Nations after suspending the accounts of more than half a dozen prominent journalists from outlets such as *The New York Times*, *CNN* and *The Washington Post*.

Mr. Musk's suspensions had drawn sharp criticism from various quarters.

UN rights chief Volker Turk welcomed Mr. Musk's decision to reinstate the accounts, "but serious concerns remain," he posted on Twitter.

The spokesman for UN chief Antonio Guterres called it a "dangerous precedent at a time when journalists all over the world are facing censorship and physical threats." The EU had warned Twitter could face fines through European laws.

A plea for Peru's peace

Call for calm: A woman takes part in a march to ask for peace and in support of the police and military at the San Martin square in Lima in Peru on Friday. Peru's embattled President Dina Boluarte said on Saturday that she would not step down in the face of violent protests over her predecessor's ouster as she called on lawmakers to bring forward elections as a way to quell unrest. AFP

Varadkar's turn to be Irish PM in a deal by parties to share power

Associated Press
LONDON

Leo Varadkar

Leo Varadkar returned for a second term as Ireland's Prime Minister on Saturday as part of a job-sharing deal made by the country's coalition government.

Lawmakers voted to approve Mr. Varadkar's nomination to replace Micheál Martin during a special session of the Dail, the lower house of Ireland's parliament. He will be officially confirmed later at a meeting with President Michael D. Higgins.

Mr. Martin has served as Ireland's leader, or taoiseach, since an election in 2020 that produced a historic coalition agreement between his Fianna Fáil party and Mr. Varadkar's Fine Gael.

Forming a government along with the smaller Greens, the parties agreed Mr. Martin would hold the top job with Mr. Varadkar as his deputy for the first half of a five-year term, before the men switched posts.

Challenges ahead

The government faces a daunting set of challenges, including a housing crisis, soaring energy costs, an overstretched health care system and thorny post-Brexit relations with the United Kingdom.

In an acceptance speech, Mr. Varadkar promised to tackle the housing and cost of living crises in the country during the remainder of the government's term, "offering hope and housing, economic opportunities and a fair start for all."

Mr. Martin, 62, submitted his resignation to Mr. Higgins on Saturday morning. He said it had been "the honour of a lifetime" to serve as taoiseach and he was "looking forward to the second phase of this government."

Centrist parties

Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil are both centrist parties, with a fierce rivalry stemming from their origins on opposite sides of Ireland's civil war a century ago. They have dominated Irish politics for decades but had never formed a government together before.

Mr. Varadkar, 43, served as Prime Minister between 2017 and 2020 – the country's youngest-ever leader and first openly gay Prime Minister. Mr. Varadkar, whose mother is Irish and father is Indian, was also Ireland's first biracial taoiseach.

Seven children, 13 women among 24 dead in Malaysia landslip, nine persons go missing

Associated Press
BATANG KALI

Soil slip: Damaged cars seen amongst the debris following a landslip at a campsite in Batang Kali in Malaysia. REUTERS

Rescuers on Saturday found the bodies of a woman and two children, raising the death toll from a landslip on an unlicensed campground in Malaysia to 24 with nine others still missing.

Officials told reporters that the bodies of a mother and son were found buried under a metre of mud and debris. The body of a little girl was discovered later. He said there was hope of finding survivors if they clung on to piles or branches or rocks with pockets of air but that chances were slim.

Authorities said 94 people were sleeping at the camp site on an organic farm early on Friday when the dirt tumbled from a road about 30 metres above them and covered about 1 hectare. Most were families enjoying a short vacation during the year-end school break.

Seven hospitalised

The 24 victims included seven children and 13 women. Authorities were waiting for next of kin to identify the victims.

A mother and her toddler daughter were found on Friday hugging each other in a heart-rending scene, rescuers said. Seven persons were hospitalised and dozens more, including three Singaporeans, were rescued unharmed.

Iran arrests actor of Oscar-winning movie, lawyer of journalists

Associated Press
CAIRO

Iranian authorities arrested one of the country's most famous woman actors on charges of spreading falsehoods about nationwide protests that grip the country.

The report by IRNA said Taraneh Alidoosti, star of the Oscar-winning movie "*The Salesman*," was detained a week after she made a post on Instagram expressing solidarity with the first man recently executed for crimes allegedly committed during the nationwide protests.

Iran officials also arrested the lawyer of two female journalists detained after reporting the death of Mahsa Amini, which sparked the protests.

"Mohammad Ali Kamfirouzi, the lawyer for several activists and journalists, has been detained," the *Ham Mihan* newspaper said.The arrest brings to 25 the number of lawyers detained in connection with the protests, the reformist daily said.

(With AFP inputs)

NASA set to conduct first global water survey from space

Reuters

A NASA-led international satellite was launched from Southern California, on a major Earth science project to conduct a comprehensive survey of the world's oceans, lakes and rivers for the first time.

Dubbed as SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography), the advanced radar satellite is designed to give an unprecedented view of the life-giving fluid covering 70% of the planet, shedding new light on the mechanics and consequences of climate change.

A Falcon 9 rocket, owned and operated by billionaire Elon Musk's commercial launch company SpaceX, was set to liftoff from the Vandenberg U.S. Space Force Base, about 170 miles (275 km) northwest of Los Angeles, to carry SWOT into orbit.

If all goes as planned, the SUV-sized satellite will produce research data within several months.

Nearly 20 years in development, the SWOT incorporates advanced microwave radar technology that scientists say will collect height-surface measurements of oceans, lakes, reservoirs and rivers in high-definition detail over 90% of the globe.

Enhanced models

The data, compiled from radar sweeps of the planet at least twice every 21 days, will enhance ocean-circulation models, bolster weather and climate forecasts and aid in managing scarce freshwater supplies in drought-stricken regions, according to researchers.

"It's really the first mission to observe nearly all water on the planet's surface," said NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) scientist Ben Hamlington.

One major thrust of the mission is to explore how oceans absorb atmospheric heat and carbon dioxide in a natural process that moderates global temperatures and climate change.

Better results

Scanning the seas from orbit, the SWOT was designed to precisely measure fine differences in surface elevations around smaller currents and eddies, where much the oceans' drawdown of heat and carbon is believed to occur. The SWOT can do so with 10 times greater resolution than existing technologies, according to JPL.

The SWOT's ability to discern smaller surface features will help study the impact of rising ocean levels on coastlines. More precise data along tidal zones would help predict how far storm-surge flooding may penetrate inland.

Freshwater bodies are another key focus of the SWOT, equipped to observe the entire length of nearly all rivers wider than 330 feet and more than 1 million lakes and reservoirs larger than 15 acres.

Genes for long lifespan of banyan, peepal trees identified

Over a dozen genes with multiple signs of adaptive (MSA) evolution play a pivotal role in long-time survival of these trees; all participants who achieved remission had completely stopped taking medications

R. Prasad

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Bhopal have carried out whole genome sequencing of banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*) and peepal (*Ficus religiosa*) from leaf tissue samples. They also undertook a comprehensive genome-wide phylogenetic analysis with 50 other angiosperm plant species, including four other sequenced *Ficus* species.

Genome sizes of these two *Ficus* species were corrected compared to the previously estimated genome sizes. The draft genome assemblies were over 392 Mbp for banyan and nearly 333 Mbp for peepal.

The work helped in identifying 17 genes in the case of banyan and 19 genes of peepal with multiple signs of adaptive evolution (MSA) that play a pivotal role in long-time survival of these two *Ficus* species.

The genes with multiple signs of adaptive evolution came about in response to population bottleneck faced by both trees around 0.8 million years ago. The study has been published in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

Undertaking the comparative evolutionary analyses of closely related plant species helped the researchers in precisely identifying the genes with evolutionary signatures in both plants. Similarly, comparing other plant species with long lifespan in the comparative analysis helped in the identification of adaptively evolved genes, which could have played a significant role in longevity of both banyan and peepal tree species.

"The comparative evolutionary analysis performed across 20 phylogenetically closer *Eudicot* species revealed adaptive evolution in genes involved in major cellular mechanisms associated with long-time survival such as phytohormones signalling, senescence pathways, fig-wasp coevolution, stress tolerance, which is the highlight disclosure of this study," says Dr. Vineet K. Sharma, Associate Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, IISER Bhopal, and the corresponding author of the paper.

Genes showing multiple signs of adaptive evolution in banyan were mainly associated with root development, leaf formation, metabolism, pollen tube and seed development and other developmental processes. The MSA genes of peepal trees were mainly associated with root development, reproduction, metabolism.

"The genes related to root, leaf and reproductive growth that have undergone evolution in these *Ficus* species explains the well-developed morphological characteristics of these trees," he says.

Gene family expansion/contraction analysis undertaken by the researchers revealed that the highly expanded gene families of both the species were involved in disease resistance functions in plants.

In the case of banyan tree, 15 of 17 MSA genes were also associated with tolerance against environmental stress – drought, oxidative stress, and pathogens. In peepal trees, 17 out of 19 MSA genes were associated with stress tolerance activities.

In addition, the researchers identified seven genes involved in two pathways that produce volatile organic compounds in floral scents which attract wasps for pollination.

"One of the key findings of this study is the identification of signatures of adaptive evolution in genes that are associated with providing longevity in both the species. Particularly, the genes related to sustained growth and development – plant root development, flowering, reproductive growth, and metabolism – showed multiple signs of adaptation," they write.

The adaptive evolution in genes in two cellular mechanisms might explain the well-developed aerial roots that is unique to banyan trees.

Both plants show genes with signatures of multiple adaptive evolution involved in phytohormone signalling pathways. These pathways function to regulate plant developmental senescence and ageing processes. This could be one more reason why banyan and peepal trees have a long lifespan. Both banyan and peepal trees have select plant disease resistance gene families that have been expanded through gene duplication events in the course of evolution which confers greater longevity.

Also, 88% and 89% of the MSA genes in banyan and peepal trees, respectively, are associated with tolerance against biotic and abiotic stress responses. This, in turn, helps these plants to survive when faced with environmental challenges.

"To survive in tropical and sub-tropical ecosystems as keystone species, *Ficus* trees have evolved their developmental and stress tolerance mechanisms," says Dr. Sharma.

"Availability of their genome sequences will aid in further studies on this ecologically important genus and other comparative aspects, including medicinal properties between short-lived and long-lived plants," says Dr. Sharma.

Why banyan, peepal trees live long

Genes with multiple signs of adaptive evolution arose in response to population bottleneck faced around 0.8 million years ago

- Genes showing multiple signs of adaptive (MSA) evolution in banyan tree were mainly associated with root development, leaf formation, metabolism, and reproduction
- Genes with multiple adaptive evolution in peepal were mainly associated with root development, reproduction, metabolism
- Disease resistance gene families showed gene expansion as well as high gene expression in these two trees
- For banyan, 15 of 17 MSA genes were also associated with tolerance against environmental stress
- In peepal trees, 17 out of 19 MSA genes were associated with stress tolerance activities

Sequencing: Whole genome sequencing was carried out from leaf tissue samples

- The adaptive evolution in genes in two cellular mechanisms explains the well-developed aerial roots of banyan trees, which protect them from environmental challenges
- Both plants show genes with signatures of multiple adaptive evolution involved in phytohormone signalling pathways that regulate plant developmental senescence and ageing

Reasons for treatment resistance in prostate cancer found

The Hindu Bureau

Prostate cancer cell dynamics at a single-cell resolution across the timespan of the disease – from its beginning to the point of androgen independence, where the tumour no longer responds to hormone, deprivation therapy has now been characterised.

The study in mice, published in *eLife*, reveals an expansion of intermediate cells that occurs in prostate cancer, which correlates with resistance to treatment and poor clinical outcomes in humans. These cells are castration-resistant, meaning they continue to grow in the absence of testosterone and could explain how prostate tumours become resistant to hormone-related treatments.

Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed form of cancer, and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in males in the U.S. This is due to an incomplete knowledge of the cellular drivers behind the disease's progression and the risk of progressing to castration resistant prostate cancer (CRPC).

The prostate gland epithelium – a type of body tissue that forms the surface of glands and organs – is typically composed of two types of epithelial cells: basal cells and highly differentiated luminal cells (cells which have altered in form). However, a more stem-like, castration-resistant intermediate of the luminal cells has previously been proposed.

"It has been suggested that normal luminal cells are able to transition into these progenitor cells under castrate conditions," lead author Alexandre Germanos at the University of Washington, U.S., says in a release. "There is evidence that these cells contribute to the initial development of tumours in the prostate and resistance to treatment in advanced cancers, although this is yet to be confirmed in other models of CRPC."

To study this further, the authors used a mouse model of the CRPC to create an 'atlas of prostate cellular composition and evolution' through the course of the disease.

A gene called Pten, which codes for a tumour-suppressing enzyme, is inactive in majority of advanced prostate cancer patients. The team used a technique called single-cell RNA sequencing to compare the epithelial and non-epithelial cell-type populations in healthy mice and those lacking Pten.

In the prostate of healthy mice, they observed multiple epithelial cell types – basal, luminal and luminal progenitor cells. In the prostate of mice lacking Pten, they observed an expansion of luminal intermediate cells, likely derived from three cellular sources – basal cells, luminal progenitor cells and differentiated luminal cells. This suggests that basal cells can transform into intermediate cells upon Pten deletion, supporting other findings in the field. The team also observed further expansion of cancerous intermediate cells upon hormone deprivation which significantly increased the diversity of cells within a tumour (known as tumour heterogeneity), says the release.

In the intermediate cells, the researchers discovered that a 5-gene signature is specifically enriched. Using two datasets of bulk RNA-sequencing from prostate cancer patients, they showed that the signature is associated with treatment resistance and poor clinical outcomes. Furthermore, the signature is enriched in a subset of metastatic human prostate cancer cells – tumours that are able to spread – but not in the primary tumour cells.

These findings suggest that a 5-gene signature derived from mouse models of prostate cancer may have importance in understanding human disease. The presence of this gene signature may serve as a useful prognostic tool for predicting treatment resistance and outcomes in patients.

Chronic: Prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in males in the U.S. GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

Healthier diets for astronauts may improve their health

The food astronauts eat may have the potential to mitigate some negative health changes during spaceflight. Astronauts could be given an enhanced diet during spaceflights that includes a greater variety and quantity of fruits, vegetables, and fish to improve their health and performance compared to standard spaceflight food (*Scientific Reports*). Although conducted in a spaceflight simulation chamber with 16 individuals, they may have implications for astronaut health and decisions about food priorities on spaceflights.

Animal extinction piling up since industrial revolution

Extinctions of forest-dwelling animals have been accumulating since the second industrial revolution – a period of rapid industrialisation that occurred in many developed countries. The findings (*Communications Biology*) highlight the need for conservation strategies to mitigate the impact of historic deforestation. The extinction rates have increased over time particularly among amphibians, indicating that consistent deforestation over many decades has contributed to increased modern day extinctions.

Prolonged geographic separation drives new species

Trait data from more than 1,000 different vertebrate species suggests that new species often arise not because of pressures from different environments, but because of prolonged geographic separation in ecologically similar environments (*Science*). It found divergent ecological adaptation is a relatively minor force during allopatric divergence and that most species tend to evolve under similar selective pressures.

Question Corner

Domesticated cats

When were cats domesticated?

Nearly 10,000 years ago, humans settling in the Fertile Crescent, the areas of the Middle East surrounding the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, made the first switch from hunter-gatherers to farmers. They developed close bonds with the rodent-eating cats that conveniently served as ancient pest-control in society's first civilisations. A new study (*Heredity*) found this lifestyle transition for humans was the catalyst that sparked the world's first domestication of cats, and as humans began to travel the world, they brought their new feline friends along with them.

The analysis of feline genetics in the study strongly supports the theory that cats were likely first domesticated only in the Fertile Crescent before migrating with humans all over the world, says a release.

After feline genes are passed down to kittens throughout generations, the genetic makeup of cats in western Europe, for example, is now far different from cats in Southeast Asia, a process known as 'isolation by distance'.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

What is causing delays and chaos at Delhi airport?

Why has expansion been delayed? What action is being taken to ensure easier transits for passengers?

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Over the past few weeks, there have been delays and long queues at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, prompting Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scinda to step in to initiate corrective measures. A parliamentary panel summoned the CEO of Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), and the Airports Authority of India has issued a notice to examine whether it failed to meet "service quality requirements."

What are the reasons for over-crowding?

Passengers have complained of long queues at entry gates, check-in counters as well as security lanes at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, with Terminal 3, built in 2010 to handle 3.4 crore passengers per annum, worst affected. So far December has witnessed a record number of air travellers since the COVID-19 outbreak with the highest number seen on December 11 when airlines carried 4.27 lakh domestic passengers. Delhi airport alone has seen 1,95,000 domestic and international passengers per day at all its three passenger terminal buildings.

According to a senior BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security) official, the number of flights and passengers at Delhi airport have grown exponentially, but its "infrastructure has frozen over time." Equipment like X-ray machines and door frame metal detectors are bought by the airport out of its capital expenditure, while the CISF provides personnel and their cost is met through the aviation security fee component of airfare paid by passengers.

A BCAS official says the number of flights and passengers have grown exponentially but the infrastructure at Delhi airport 'has frozen over time'

After Mr. Scindia visited the airport last week, a decision was taken to install seven more X-ray machines and take the number of total security lanes to 20 from the current 13, which were found to be adequate only for 15 flights, while the airport saw up to 21 flights during peak hours. A parliamentary panel also met DIAL officials, and the Airports Authority of India has also issued a notice to DIAL.

What are the service quality requirements?

The DIAL is supposed to submit a quarterly report on the "service quality requirements" spelt out in Schedule 3 of the Operations Management Development Agreement of 2006 under which certain functions at Delhi airport were privatised and given to the DIAL. The agreement specifies 13 different categories of services and the minimum time within which they should be available.

After the furore on overcrowding at Delhi Airport, the Airports Authority of India sent a notice to DIAL last week to examine whether it was failing to conform to the requirements. These include service parameters such as maximum queuing time; within two years of the deal, the airport has to ensure that for check-in the maximum waiting time is five minutes for business class and 20 minutes for economy. Similarly, for security check as well as customs, immigration and quarantine, as many as 95% of passengers should be cleared within 10 minutes. As far as baggage delivery is concerned, the first bag should arrive on the conveyor belt within 10 minutes, and the last bag should arrive within 30 minutes after the aircraft lands. The airport should also ensure wheelchairs for 100% of passengers who need them within five minutes.

There are other service parameters too, which include time taken to find parking space, maximum waiting time for taxis, and response to customer complaints on phone. If the airport operator fails to provide these standards, it is liable to pay 0.5% of the monthly revenue for every month that the standards are below the laid down requirements. A senior AAI official said so far the airport was able to meet these criteria.

Why has infrastructure not kept pace with the growth in demand?

COVID-19 turned the clock back as passenger traffic suddenly dropped to 56% to 6.3 crore in calendar year 2020. However, passenger numbers have been growing steadily since March this year after the fear of Omicron faded away. Moreover, with Diwali and Dussehra festivals in October, resurgence in demand was established. But expansion plans at various airports were put on the backburner due to the impact of COVID-19 on revenue as well as unavailability of manpower and material. Delhi airport embarked on an expansion plan that would take its passenger handling capacity from 6.9 crore now to 10 crore by mid-2023, but it is already a year behind schedule. The development of airports such as Mumbai and Chennai is also behind the growth curve.

Though the government has granted in-principle approval to 21 greenfield airport projects, construction has only begun in nine of them.

The challenges of quantum computing

What do quantum computers do that classic computers cannot? What are the elements that need to be in place before practical quantum computers become a reality? What are qubits? How long will it take to gain quantum supremacy?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

The allure of quantum computers (QC) is their ability to take advantage of quantum physics to solve problems too complex for conventional computers. Several institutes and companies worldwide have invested in developing QC systems, from software to solve specific problems to the science that goes into expanding their hardware capabilities. In 2021, the Indian government launched a mission to study quantum technologies with an allocation of ₹8,000 crore; the army opened a quantum research facility in Madhya Pradesh; and the Department of Science and Technology co-launched another facility in Pune. Given its wide-ranging applications and the scale of investments, understanding what QCs really are is crucial to sidestep the hype and develop expectations that are closer to reality.

What is quantum physics?

A macroscopic object – like a ball, a chair or a person – can be at only one location at a time, which can be predicted accurately; and the object's effects on its surroundings can't be transmitted faster than at the speed of light. This is the classical 'experience' of reality.

A practical QC needs at least 1,000 qubits. The current biggest quantum processor has 433 qubits

You can observe a ball flying through the air and plot its path. You can predict exactly where the ball will be at a given time. If the ball strikes the ground, you will see it doing so in the time it takes light to travel through the atmosphere to you.

Quantum physics describes reality at the subatomic scale, where the objects are particles like electrons. Here, you can't pinpoint the location of an electron. You can only know that it will be present in some volume of space, with a probability attached to each point in the volume: say, 10% at point A and 5% at point B. When you probe the volume, you might find the electron at point B. If you repeatedly probe the volume, you will find the electron at point B 5% of the time.

Erwin Schrödinger described one interpretation of the laws of quantum physics in a famous thought-experiment in 1935. There's a cat in a closed box with a bowl of poison. You can't know whether the cat is alive or dead without opening the box. In this time, the cat is said to exist in a superposition of two states: alive and dead. When you open the box, you force the superposition to collapse to a single state. The state to which it collapses depends on the probability of each state. The same thing happens with the electrons' locations. (Note: This is a simplistic example.)

Another relevant phenomenon is entanglement. When two particles are entangled and then separated by an arbitrary distance (even more than 1,000 km), probing one particle, and thus causing its superposition to collapse, will instantaneously cause the superposition of the other particle to collapse as well. Note that 'instantaneous' is faster than the speed of light.

How would a computer use superposition?

The bit is the fundamental computational unit of a conventional computer. Its value is 1 if a corresponding transistor is on and 0 if the transistor is off. The transistor can be in one of two states at a time – on or off – so a bit can have one of two values at a time, 0 or 1.

The qubit is the fundamental unit of a QC. It could be a particle like an electron. Some information is directly encoded on the qubit: if the electron's spin is pointing up, it means 1; if the spin is pointing down, it means 0. But instead of being either 1 or 0, the information is encoded in a superposition: say, 45% 0 plus 55% 1. This is entirely unlike the two separate states of 0 and 1 and is a third kind of state.

The qubits are entangled to ensure they work together. If one qubit is probed to reveal its state, the states of all entangled qubits will be revealed as well. The computer's final output is the state to which all the qubits have collapsed.

One qubit can encode two states, so a computer with N qubits can encode 2N states. A computer with N transistors can only encode 2N states. So a qubit-based computer can access more states than a transistor-based computer, and thus access more computational pathways and, solutions to more complex problems.

How come we are not using them?

Researchers have figured out the basics and used QCs to model the binding energy of hydrogen bonds and simulate a wormhole model. But to solve most practical problems, like finding the shape of an undiscovered drug, autonomously exploring space or factoring large numbers, they face fractious challenges.

A practical QC needs at least 1,000 qubits. The current biggest quantum processor has 433 qubits. There are no theoretical limits on larger processors; the barrier is engineering-related.

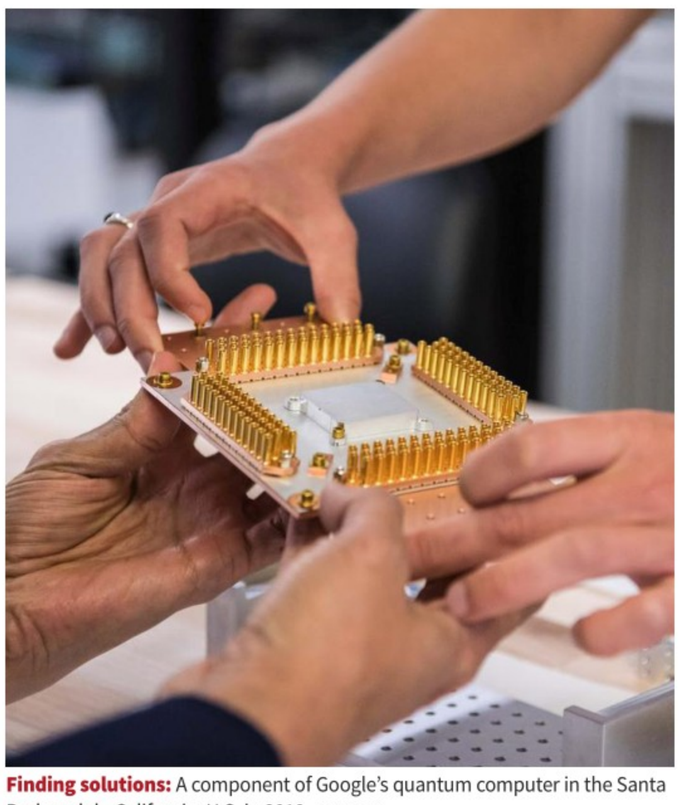
Qubits exist in superposition in specific conditions, including very low temperature (~0.01 K), with radiation-shielding and protection against physical shock. Tap your finger on the table and the superposition of the qubit sitting on it could collapse. Material or electromagnetic defects in the circuitry between qubits could also 'corrupt' their states and bias the eventual result. Researchers are yet to build QCs that completely eliminate these disturbances in systems with a few dozen qubits.

Error-correction is tricky. The no-cloning theorem states that it's impossible to perfectly clone the states of a qubit. So engineers can't create a copy of a qubit's states in a classical system to sidestep the problem. One way out is to entangle each qubit with a group of physical qubits that correct errors. A physical qubit is a system that mimics a qubit. But reliable error-correction requires each qubit to be attached to thousands of physical qubits.

Researchers are also yet to build QCs that don't amplify errors when more qubits are added. This challenge is related to a deeper problem: unless the rate of errors is kept under a threshold, more qubits will only increase the informational noise.

Practical QCs will require at least lakhs of qubits, operating with superconducting circuits that we are yet to build - apart from other components like the firmware, circuit optimisation, compilers and algorithms that make use of quantum-physics possibilities. Quantum supremacy itself – a QC doing something a classical computer can't – is thus at least decades away.

The billions being invested in this technology today are based on speculative profits, while companies that promise developers access to quantum circuits on the cloud often offer physical qubits with noticeable error rates.



Finding solutions: A component of Google's quantum computer in the Santa Barbara lab, California, U.S. in 2019. REUTERS

How can mRNA vaccines help fight cancer?

What are the results from an experimental trial on skin cancer patients? How was the trial conducted? How does the mRNA technology work? Are cancer vaccines going to be a reality soon? Will they be affordable? Will they fight other cancers too?

Ramya Kannan

The story so far:

The results of a trial of an experimental cancer vaccine built on the mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid) platform, made by Moderna and MSD (Merck&Co.), have shown promising results, media announcements claimed last week. Patients taking an immunotherapy drug Keytruda for advanced melanoma (a kind of skin cancer) were less likely to die or have the cancer recur, if they took the vaccine (mRNA-4157/V940) also, the companies said.

What did the trial involve?

It was a small study, involving 157 patients. The vaccine showed a 44% reduction in the risk of dying of cancer or having the cancer progress. Moderna's Paul Burton was quoted as saying: "This is a significant finding. It's the first randomised-trial testing of an mRNA therapeutic in cancer patients." *Reuters* reported that "the combination was generally safe and demonstrated the benefit compared with Keytruda alone after a year of treatment. Serious drug-related side effects occurred in 14.4% of patients who received the combination compared with 10% with Keytruda alone."

mRNA vaccine technology can be customised which provides a lot of optimism, says Dr. Vincent Rajkumar

GETTY IMAGES

As a personalised cancer vaccine, it is tailor-made for every patient. As a consequence, it is expected to be very expensive to make. The results too will have to be independently scrutinised by experts, western media has reported. But oncologists across the world have welcomed this as an exciting new opportunity in cancer care.

How does the vaccine work?

The personalised cancer vaccine uses the same messenger-RNA technology that was used to produce the COVID vaccine. It allows the body's immune system to seek and destroy cancerous cells, in this case melanoma, but with the hope that it could lead to new ways to fight other types of cancers too.

According to an article by Thomas Schlake et al, in *RNA Biology*, RNA as a therapeutic was first promoted in 1989 after the development of a broadly applicable in vitro transfection technique. A couple of years later, mRNA was advocated as a vaccine platform. He says, "mRNA offers strong safety advantages. As the minimal genetic construct, it harbours only the elements directly required for expression of the encoded protein."

The refinement of the mRNA platform owes everything to COVID. Rapid advancements within a remarkable period of one year allowed the technology to gain several revolutionary steps ahead, in order for it to be used successfully to drive vaccines that work. While the mRNA vaccines were notoriously unstable, in the National Cancer Institute website on 'Can mRNA Vaccines Help Treat Cancer?' Edward Winstead writes that researchers have learned how to engineer stable forms of mRNA and deliver these molecules to the body through vaccines. "Once in the body, the mRNA instructs cells that take up the vaccine to produce proteins that may stimulate an immune response against these same proteins when they are present in intact viruses or tumour cells." The mRNA-based cancer treatment vaccines have reportedly been tested in small trials for nearly a decade, with some promising early results.

As far as the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine was concerned, the mRNA included in the Pfizer-BioNTech and the Moderna vaccines instructs cells to produce a version of the "spike" protein that studs the surface of SARS-CoV-2, he explains. The immune system sees this spike protein as foreign and mobilises immune cells to produce antibodies to fight off the infection.

A *Reuters* story on the breakthrough study explained that the personalised cancer vaccine works in concert with Merck's Keytruda, to disable a protein called programmed death 1, or PD-1, that helps tumours to evade the immune system. To build the vaccine, researchers took samples of patients' tumours and healthy tissue. After analysing the samples to decode their genetic sequence and isolate mutant proteins associated only with the cancer, that information was used to design a tailor-made cancer vaccine. When injected into a patient, the patient's cells act as a manufacturing plant, producing perfect copies of the mutations for the immune system to recognise and destroy. Having been exposed to the mutations without the virus, the body learns to fight off the infection.

What does it mean for the future?

Vincent Rajkumar, Editor-in-Chief, *Blood Cancer Journal*, and Professor, Mayo Clinic, told *The Hindu*, "It's a really important result and shows the potential of mRNA vaccine technology."

Listing out CAR-T cells and bi specific antibodies among newer cancer therapies, he said both approaches have already produced spectacular results in many cancers.While in CAR-T treatment, scientists take the immune systems cells out, engineer them to target a specific cancer and then put them back in the body to kill cancer cells, bispecific antibodies attach to immune system cells with one arm and cancer cells with the other, thereby bringing powerful immune system killer cells right next to the cancer cells. A few bispecific antibodies have been FDA-approved already, he said.

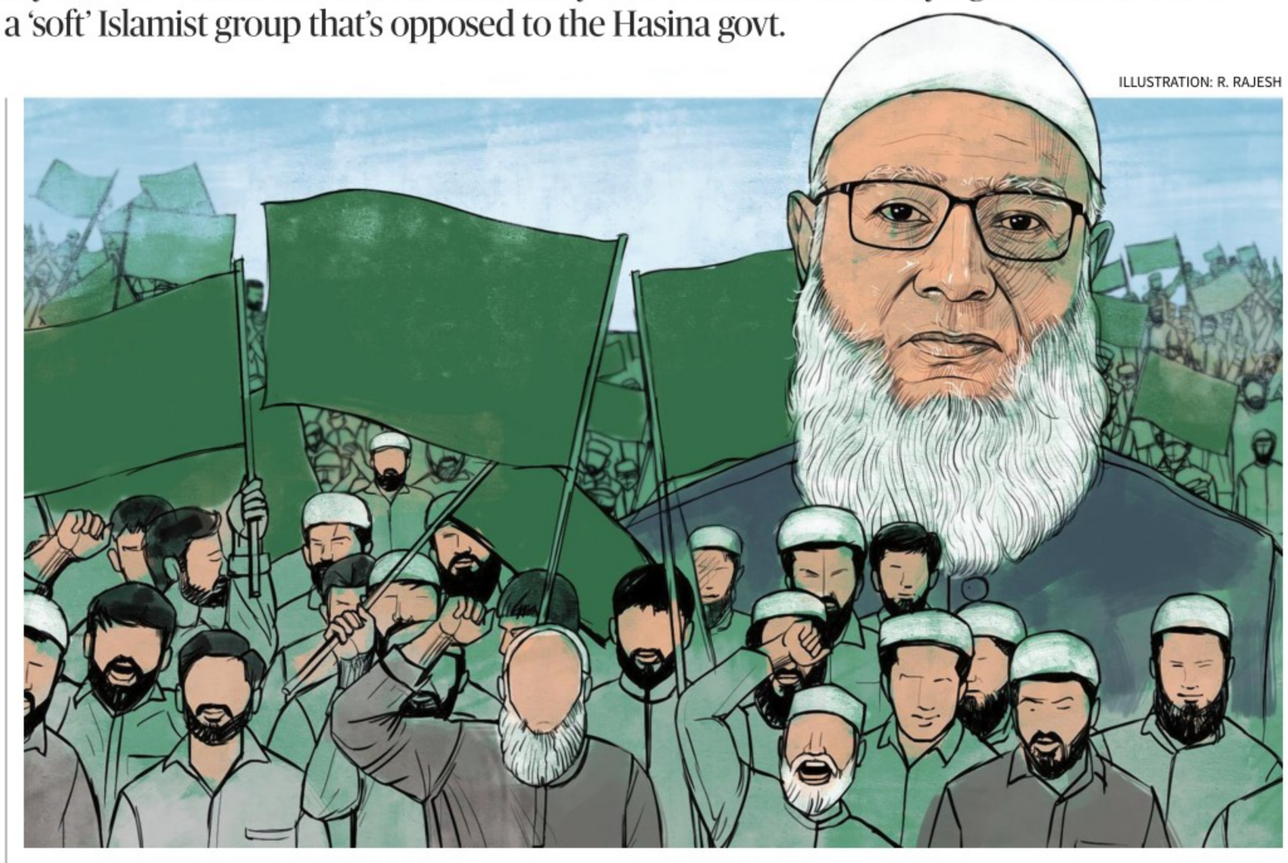
"The possibility of using mRNA vaccine technology to fight cancer just got a boost. The idea of cancer vaccines has been around for a long time. But mRNA vaccine technology and personalisation of the vaccine that it allows provides a lot of optimism," Dr. Vincent explained. On a more general note, he added, technology has managed to connect investigators like never before, making collaborations between nations much easier.

Old party, new brand

Jamaat-e-Islami

The Opposition party, discredited by the war crimes trial and weakened by a state crackdown, is trying to rebrand itself as a 'soft' Islamist group that's opposed to the Hasina govt.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



THE GIST

- Jamaat-e-Islami's leaders have been convicted by the war crimes tribunal for their participation in the genocide of 1971 during the independence war
- The party has been barred from contenting elections but remains the largest Islamist hardline group in Bangladesh and has been aligned with its main opposition, the BNP
- Observers say the Hasina government backed off recently on several occasions in the face of protests by the Islamists that have strengthened the hardline groups

Kallol Bhattacherjee

In the backdrop of the protests led by the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), authorities in Dhaka arrested Jamaat-e-Islami's ameer Shafiqur Rahman and his son Rafat Sadik Saifullah last week. The arrests were interpreted as a move to pre-empt Jamaat, the largest Islamist party in Bangladesh, from infusing critical mass to the protest rally set to be launched by BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrested Mr. Alamgir a day before the BNP's 'Grand Rally', and more arrests followed. Reports suggested that the rally failed to trigger a public movement against the government that the BNP had hoped for, but there were hints that unleashing of Jamaat's foot soldiers could have triggered a larger challenge for Ms. Hasina.

The relationship between Jamaat and Ms. Hasina has been hostile for most of her last three tenures. The Hasina government has championed a trial for the genocide of 1971 during the Liberation War. Mir Quasem Ali, one of the biggest leaders of Jamaat, was convicted by the war crimes tribunal, set up in 2009 to investigate the crimes committed by the Pakistani Army and its local collaborators, and hanged in 2016. The hanging drew criticism from several quarters, but the Awami League government did not back off. Several other figures of Jamaat were hanged during 2013-16.

Jamaat in Bangladesh is one of the major offshoots of the main branch of Jamaat-e-Islami, founded by Islamic theologian Abu Ala Maududi in British India in 1941. Maududi developed a political ideology based on Islam and Jamaat was the party organisation to meet its objectives – establishing an Islamic state. The group split into different organisations after Partition.

It took strong roots in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), and subsequently, its cadre were accused of supporting other organisations such as Al-Badr, who wanted continuation of the Pakistani rule over Bangladesh. After the end of the Pakistani rule in 1971, Jamaat established itself as an entity of Bangladesh and continued to play a prominent role in the country's politics.

Both the BNP and the Awami League had joined hands with Jamaat in the past against their common rivals. But after the war crimes trial and the subsequent state crack down, Jamaat adopted different tactics to stay relevant in Bangladesh's politics. The party is now banned from contesting elections. But it remains a powerful radical force on the streets of Bangladesh.

'New Jamaat'

Jamaat today marks December 16 – the day when Indian forces defeated Pakistan and the new nation of Bangladesh was born against the will of the Pakistani Army and its supporters such as Jamaat in 1971 – as Vijay Divas. This was unthinkable till a few years ago, but the organisation has come around to acknowledge that the Pakistani military was defeated in the war of 1971, though it is yet to concede to the truth of genocide of that time because of the obvious self-humiliation that it might cause.

However, Jamaat has not undergone any essential change when it comes to its worldview. The 'new Jamaat' is the party of old beliefs, which aspires to create a homeland for the Muslims in the region, that uses modern tech and the power of advertisements and social media influencers to spread its message. While the main leadership of Jamaat has stayed away from ground-level politics, the message of Jamaat and other opposition parties is widely disseminated through the YouTube channels of prominent anti-government critics such as Ilyas Hossein.

Jamaat always wanted to whitewash its role in the developments of 1971 but failed to do so as there's overwhelming historical evidence. But the contemporary hybrid information system, which often targets the younger generation of Bangladeshi citizens with a version of Jamaat, offers them an opportunity to rewrite the past. The new Jamaat in Bangladesh is in fact much broader than what the orthodox roots of the organisation had once envisaged.

The Hasina government is also under international pressure to review its approach towards Jamaat and other Opposition parties as elections are approaching next year.

Call for transparency

The U.S. government has been asking for greater transparency and credible elections in Bangladesh. The opposition had accused Ms. Hasina's party of rigging the 2018 elections. U.S. Ambassador Peter Haas recently visited families of victims of enforced disappearance in Dhaka, including a BNP leader's house, triggering protests by local Awami League activists. Sources in Dhaka have hinted that several pro-Jamaat social media influencers serving the BNP-Jamaat political combine have found asylum in the U.S. and are running widely followed YouTube programmes from the east coast of the U.S.

Shyamal Datta, editor of *Bhorer Kagoj*, a Dhaka-based daily, maintains that the U.S. has a strong lobby involving former Nobel Prize winner Mohammed Yunus that believes in engaging the Islamist groups like Jamaat-e-Islami. "They believe that providing a democratic platform to forces like the Jamaat-e-Islami will prevent them from becoming more radical and that is why they are indicating that there is something called a "soft" Jamaat that will be a factor in Bangladesh in near future," Mr. Datta told *The Hindu*.

The risk of such a belief, he maintains, is that there is no way to hold Jamaat accountable once they are given credibility by helping them win popular vote. As a lesson, he reminded of the links that Jamaat maintains with diverse Islamic groups such as the Hefazat-e-Islam of Bangladesh that was involved in the killings of 2013. Once Jamaat finds global and diplomatic support as a "soft" fundamentalist force, there are chances, Mr. Datta said, that they would coalesce with other ideological fellow travellers such as Hefazat and quickly gain strength and momentum.

Pressure from hardliners

In the recent past, the Awami League had succumbed to the pressure tactics by the hardline religious lobby, often drawing criticism from the secular sections of the party. One group of opinion makers in Dhaka believe Jamaat emerged stronger as the government backed off under pressure on several occasions.

One example was the government's proposal to erect a bust of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh and Ms. Hasina's father, in a prominent spot in Dhaka in 2021-22, Mujibur's centenary year. But Islamist groups led by Hefazat opposed the move and launched protests calling it un-Islamic. The government could not build the bust till the end of the festivities.

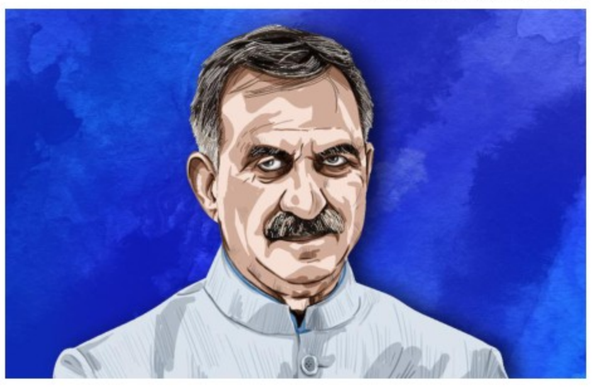
As elections are approaching, Bangladesh politics is expected to be more turbulent. And Jamaat, given its past of street violence, could wreak havoc if the country slips into violent protests. The arrests of Jamaat leaders took place against this background. The BNP wants Jamaat's street power. But the government, by bringing in terrorism charges against the group's leaders, seems determined to pre-empt them.

The organiser

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

The Congress has picked someone with decades of experience in leading different units of the party to head its Himachal Pradesh government

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR



Vikas Vasudeva

On December 11, Himachal Pradesh saw a rare moment in State politics – in a State where politics is historically dominated by members of prominent families, a son of a bus driver took oath as the Chief Minister.

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, 58, who comes from a humble family background in rural Himachal Pradesh, has been a vocal supporter of transparency in governance. When the Congress picked him as the Chief Minister after winning the Assembly election, Mr. Sukhu, a law graduate, said his government would ensure "zero per cent corruption and 100% transparency" in the hill State.

Born on March 27, 1964, in Bhavran village (Nadaun) of Hamirpur district, Mr. Sukhu had run a daily milk supply shop in his early days to support his family, before taking the political plunge. While in the Opposition, Mr. Sukhu had earned the reputation of an anti-corruption crusader: he had consistently demanded elected representatives, let they be the Chief Minister, Ministers or MLAs, provide details of their income, including the source, and place it in the public domain.

Known as a modest, soft-spoken, yet assertive leader in political circles, Mr. Sukhu has had a career that has seen both intra-party squabbles and cooperation. He was at loggerheads with the late Virbhadra Singh, the six-time Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, on several issues. Singh, a stalwart in State politics, had reservations on Mr. Sukhu's style of working, but the latter stood firm on his ground, often taking on Singh. At the same time, he enjoys warm ties with many State Congress leaders and activists. Mr. Sukhu is also learnt to have cultivated a close relationship with Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Student days

Mr. Sukhu became active in politics from his college days. He was the general secretary and then president of the students' union at the Government College, Sanjauli (Shimla) in 1984-85.

Later, he graduated in law from Himachal Pradesh University, where he continued his political journey. He joined the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, and remained the president of its State unit from 1989 to 1995.

Following this, Mr. Sukhu served as general secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress and then became the president of the State Youth Congress (1998-2008). By that time, he had become one of the most influential organisers within the party. He became the president of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee in 2013.

In his long career spanning three different units of the Congress in the State, Mr. Sukhu was known for nurturing and promoting his party colleagues – this legacy is said to have helped him in garnering the support of fellow leaders for the top post. He had never been a Minister, not even a chairman of any Board or Corporation. He rose straight to the post of Chief Minister, a rare accomplishment.

In his electoral journey, Mr. Sukhu was twice elected as a councillor of the Shimla Municipal Corporation – from 1992 to 1997 and 1997 to 2002. He first contested his Assembly election in 2003, from the Nadaun constituency in Hamirpur district. He has contested this seat five times and won on four occasions.

Now that Mr. Sukhu has reached the top post, he faces daunting tasks, which would test both his organisational and governance skills. His primary challenge is to make sure that he continues to enjoy the support of the factionalism-ridden party, which is led by Pratibha Singh, the widow of Virbhadra Singh. The imminent task at hand for the Chief Minister is the formation of the new Cabinet, which is still awaited even after a week since he took oath. In the long term, fulfilling the Congress's populist electoral promises in the cash-strapped State will be another challenge. But Mr. Sukhu, who came up the hard way, seems determined to tackle them all.

Erdogan's challenger

Ekrem Imamoglu

The Istanbul Mayor, who was seen as a potential Opposition candidate against Erdogan, has been barred from politics for 'insulting' Turkey's Election Council

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

G. Sampath

Thousands of protesters gathered in front of the municipal building in Istanbul on December 14 after a court sentenced the city's Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, 52, to two years, seven months and 15 days in prison for having insulted officials of Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council.

The Istanbul court also banned the Mayor, who belongs to the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), from participating in any political activity – including contesting elections or voting. Mr. Imamoglu, however, won't actually spend time in jail as the sentence falls below the minimum threshold (generally taken to be four years) for physical incarceration.

He has appealed against the conviction, and if the ruling again proves unfavourable to him, he can appeal to the Supreme Court. While the case winds its way through the Turkish judiciary, he will continue in office as Istanbul Mayor. The sentencing – especially the part that imposes a political ban on Mr. Imamoglu – has caused outrage among Turkey's Opposition parties, which have accused President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of having fabricated the whole case with the aim of eliminating the one politician who has the potential to defeat him in the elections coming up in June 2023.

Mr. Imamoglu, who hails from a business family, used to run a small restaurant before joining the CHP in 2008. His first political success came in 2014 when he became the Mayor of Beylikduzu, a district in the European side of Istanbul. He shot to international limelight when, as the Opposition candidate, he won the mayoral race for Istanbul in March 2019, defeating the candidate from Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) by 13,729 votes. The post of Istanbul Mayor is one of the most prestigious and influential electoral posts in Turkey. The city, with a population of 16 million (nearly one-fifth of the total population of 85 million) and an annual budget of $4 billion, has been the political home to the country's most powerful politicians, including Mr. Erdogan himself. Mr. Imamoglu's victory – which handed over the city to the Opposition for the first time in decades – was a huge setback for the President. Mr. Imamoglu served as Mayor for just 17 days before the election results were annulled. Fresh elections were held in June 2019. But this time, Mr. Imamoglu won by a much bigger margin of around 8,00,000 votes – leaving Mr. Erdogan with no option but to concede defeat.

Trading barbs

During his tenure, Mr. Erdogan has been busy neutralising political opponents, often by displacing them from key positions. In 2019, he removed several Mayors from the Kurdish minority from their posts, on charges that they had links with the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Opposition leaders, including Mr. Imamoglu, criticised the removal of elected Mayors as a subversion of democracy. Mr. Erdogan's Interior Minister responded by calling Mr. Imamoglu an "idiot". Mr. Imamoglu replied that it was those who had overturned the 2019 Istanbul mayoral election who were the "idiots", prompting the Supreme Electoral Council to file a case against him for "insulting" them. It was this case which has now resulted in a political ban.

The June 2023 elections are expected to be a difficult test for Mr. Erdogan and his ruling AKP. Anti-incumbency apart the country is in economic turmoil, with the Turkish lira losing 44% of its value in 2021 alone and inflation at 85%. At the same time, there is finally some opposition unity, with six parties, including the CHP, joining hands to take on Mr. Erdogan.

Mr. Imamoglu, whose ratings have consistently topped Mr. Erdogan's, is the only politician to have gotten the better of him in high stakes electoral battles, not once but twice. He was, therefore, widely tipped to lead the Opposition's challenge as their joint Presidential candidate. But the political ban, if upheld in the appeals process, would weaken the Opposition's ability to mount a credible challenge.

INBRIEF

Edelweiss to buy out L&T infra projects for ₹6,000 cr.

Edelweiss Alternatives on Saturday entered into an agreement with Larsen & Toubro and Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board to pick up their 100% stake in L&T infrastructure development projects at an enterprise value of ₹6,000 crore. Edelweiss said the transaction involves absorbing the operating team. PTI

Yes Bank assigns ₹48,000-cr. stressed assets to JC Flowers

Yes Bank has concluded assignment of the ₹48,000-crore stressed asset loan portfolio of the bank to JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction company. The bank had earlier declared JC Flowers ARC as the winner of the Swiss Challenge process for sale of its identified portfolio of stressed assets. "The bank has now concluded assignment of identified stressed loan portfolio of the bank aggregating to up to ₹48,000 crore as on March 31, 2022 under 15:85 structure, after adjusting recoveries between April 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022," Yes Bank said in a filing. PTI

Eyeing property, discoms data to widen GST base: CBIC chief

The Centre and States are working out strategies to widen taxpayer base under GST and have started pilot projects on sharing of data with discoms and property tax details to identify non-GST registered businesses. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chief Vivek Johri said a pilot project on data sharing with discoms was ongoing in Madhya Pradesh, while Gujarat was undertaking a pilot on PAN-based linkage of businesses. Maharashtra's pilot is on sharing property tax data and geo-tagging businesses and linking with their property. PTI

'e-bus ambitions hit financing speed bump'

Indian banks reluctant to lend to electric-bus makers for supply to ailing State transport operators over concerns on recovery of dues; many State transport undertakings are in bad financial condition because they are often forced to keep fares low, making them risky prospects, say bankers

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Indian banks are reluctant to lend to electric-bus makers for supply to ailing State transport operators over concerns on recovery of dues, hurting India's goal of curbing vehicle emissions, said banking, industry and government sources.

Lack of funding is limiting the ability of e-bus makers to participate in Central government tenders to supply to States, the sources told Reuters, threatening to slow the electrification of major public transport now reliant on diesel. India wants to deploy 50,000 e-buses over the next 4-5 years at an estimated cost of ₹1 trillion. As of now, 6,740 e-buses have been approved by the Central government that provides incentives for related infrastructure, of which close to a third have been deployed in States.

A senior bank official, who did not wish to be named, said it was risky to lend to manufacturers to build buses for the State transport undertakings (STUs), as many are in bad financial condition because they are often forced to keep fares low.

Mahesh Babu, chief executive of e-bus maker Switch Mobility, said: "most of the contracts related to STUs are seen by banks as high risk" and called for payment security for bus makers.

Slow charge
Lack of funding is limiting the ability of e-bus makers to participate in central government tenders to supply to States

- Each electric bus costs ₹12.5 million, about five times that of a diesel one
- Road transport sector accounts for 13% of carbon emissions in India
- STUs own and operate 1,50,000 buses that carry 70 million passengers daily

'Delays, but no defaults'
"There have been no instances of default in India though there are delays," said an STU official in north India, but added that "a payment security mechanism may instil confidence among lenders".

Each electric bus costs ₹12.5 million, about five times that of a diesel one.

Financing diesel buses is safer because in the case of default, banks can repossess the asset and easily redeploy it. E-buses need charging and other infrastructure that may not be available everywhere, said another banker.

Nevertheless, the government-run Convergence Energy Services Ltd., which aggregates demand from States for electric vehicles, on Thursday issued a tender to procure 6,450 e-buses – the country's largest so far.

Switch Mobility, the EV arm of Ashok Leyland, PMI Electro and JBM Auto responded to the latest tender. But notable exceptions were Tata Motors, India's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, and Olectra Greentech, the Indian technology partner of Chinese auto major BYD, two sources said.

A Tata Motors spokesperson said there was a need for "adequate safeguards with appropriate payment security mechanisms" to make such ventures bankable. The firm would look at participating in future tenders once such measures were in place, the spokesperson said.

The road transport sector accounts for 13% of carbon emissions in India.

Buses are one of the most significant modes of public transport and STUs own and operate 1,50,000 buses that carry 70 million passengers daily.

DRL unit to sell certain assets in Netherlands to Delpharm

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Saturday said its subsidiary DRRD BV had entered into a pact to sell certain assets and liabilities of its site in The Netherlands to Delpharm Development Leiden BV.

"The agreed consideration... is €1... DRRDBV has agreed to pay to the purchaser a compensation of €11.35 million for certain operating expenses related to the site," Dr. Reddy's said in a regulatory filing.

Auto majors eyeing India as a strategic sourcing location now: Srivats Ram

K. Bharat Kumar
CHENNAI

Global auto majors are looking at markets that offer scale and are eyeing India as a source for components, Srivats Ram, MD, Wheels India Ltd., said in an interview. "Recently, some of them have even set targets for India sourcing and... there clearly is an opportunity for Indian manufacturers," he added.

The cost differential was no more the sole criterion in the evaluation, he observed. "For a long time, global players had looked at India from a price discovery process and whether India was price competitive. The cost differential is not huge now (because of the common commodity prices globally), except where there is a high proportion of labour involved in which case there is a big arbitrage," he explained.

Srivats Ram

Global auto firms were now looking at India "with a lot more seriousness as a strategic sourcing destination", he noted. "The conversation rate currently is higher. The belief in Indian companies and their reliability to deliver is much higher and the genuineness of buyers to do business with Indian manufacturers is a lot more now."

Potential industry-wide orders "could run into billions of dollars", he said, without elaborating.

Existing suppliers to original equipment manufacturers and customers were the firms that had gained the most, based on their track record.

'Risk appetite'
The challenge, now, was not so much the opportunity but the risk appetite that Indian companies would need to take advantage of the trend.

"To meet these orders... firms have to make large investments, say, of ₹200 crore or ₹400 crore for just one customer. The question is... whether Indian firms have the risk appetite" at a time when interest rates are high and amid talk of a global slowdown.

'CCI said to raid steel firms for alleged price collusion'

Reuters
MUMBAI

The Competition Commission of India was raiding offices of small-scale steel companies over alleged price collusion of steel products used in construction, two sources with direct knowledge told Reuters.

Among the firms raided were Rungta Steel and Shyam Steel, the sources said, as officials of the anti-trust regulator conducted searches in West Bengal, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and New Delhi on Saturday.

Sport

Classy Perry sets up Australia's series win

In top gear: Perry took apart the Indian attack. PTI

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Been there. Got undone like that.

The Women in Blue may have been forgiven if they felt like that at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday night as Ellyse Perry (72 not out, 42b, 7x4, 4x6) and Grace Harris (27 not out, 12b, 4x4, 1x6) destroyed a hapless Indian attack with a superb display of power-hitting for the second time in a row.

A late assault by Richa Ghosh (40 not out, 19b, 4x4, 2x6) towards the end may have worried the Australians a bit, but India needed 20 off the last over and Meghan Schutt gave away only 12.

Australia, which made 188 for three, thus won yet another bilateral series.

The seven-run victory in the fourth T20I has rendered the final match of the series to be played on Tuesday a dead rubber, with Australia taking an unassailable 3-1 lead.

On this night, they were joined in the party by Ashleigh Gardner who struck a 27-ball 42 (3x4, 3x6). Her third-wicket stand of 94 with Perry could not have come at a better time.

The visitors had lost the two in-form batters – and the current World No. 1 and 2 – Tahlia McGrath and Beth Mooney quickly, and skipper-opener-wicket-keeper Alyssa Healy had hobbled off the field while she was on 30 (21b, 6x4).

After Healy retired hurt, Perry and Harris began to hurt the Indian bowlers badly. They had no answer to the sheer power of Harris and the class of Perry.

They added 48 off just 20 balls for their unfinished fourth wicket, leaving India with a mountain to climb.

After the failure of the top three, captain Harmanpreet Kaur (46, 30b, 6x4, 1x6), Devika Vaidya (32, 26b, 3x4) and finally Richa offered hopes to the huge holiday crowd, but the mountain indeed proved too big to climb for the host.

The scores: Australia 188/3 in 20 overs (Alyssa Healy 30 retd, hurt, Ashleigh Gardner 42, Ellyse Perry 72 n.o., Grace Harris 27 n.o.) bt India 181/5 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 46, Devika Vaidya 32, Richa Ghosh 40 n.o.).

Zakir's century on debut headlines Bangladesh's spirited fight

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

N. Sudarshan
CHATTOGRAM

Bangladesh showed it had the stomach for a fight and displayed more than just a semblance of spirit as it reached 272 for six, chasing a mammoth 513, at stumps on day four of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

Where the expectation on Saturday was for a Bangladesh roll over in the face of fierce scoreboard pressure, opener Zakir Hasan shunned the pessimism to score a terrific century on his Test debut (100, 224b, 13x4, 1x6).

Purposeful knock: While there were bursts of dynamism, Zakir's approach belied his T20 specialist tag. AP

Made to order
The 24-year-old had made his international bow nearly five years ago in a T20I match at home against Sri Lanka. That remained his sole outing on the world stage until the current Test, but the tag acquired then, of a T20 specialist, has stuck, despite having scored more than 1,000 runs each in the last two First Class seasons and a recent 173 against India-A.

While there are bursts of dynamism in his batting, none of it is furiously hyperactive as is often seen in the shortest format. The drives were clean and mostly along the ground, cuts deft and pulls controlled.

In the company of Najmul Hossain (67, 156b, 7x4), he ensured that the hosts wouldn't lose a wicket in the opening session (119/0).

After lunch, even as wickets fell, starting with Umesh Yadav's breakthrough dismissal of Najmul, Rishabh Pant completing a fine reflex effort after Virat Kohli fumbled the catch at first slip, Zakir's was a stoic presence.

The ball turned and bounced, but the southpaw didn't recoil, even taking the aerial route against Kuldeep Yadav, who had left the Bangladesh batters confused in the first innings.

Zakir hoisted Kuldeep over long-off to move into the 90s and got to the century with a swept four.

His downfall, however, came immediately after, when his forward defence to a ball from R. Ashwin went off the pad into Kohli's hands in the slips.

Axar Patel was the pick of the bowlers, with all three of his dismissals in the classic left-arm spinner's mold. Yasir Ali and Mushfiqur Rahim were both castled by deliveries bowled from slightly wide and above the eyeline, pitching on middle and off-stump and turning away.

Nurul Hasan dragged his feet out trying to reach for the ball only for Pant to remove the bails in a flash.

Shakib Al Hasan and Mehidy Hasan Miraz resisted, putting on 34 for the seventh wicket. Skipper Shakib hoicked Axar for a six and a four straight down the ground and then despatched Kuldeep over extra-cover for four and over deep mid-wicket for six.

Farming the strike
He even farmed the strike to face Kuldeep and Axar, mindful of the left-hander vs. left-armer match-up that's ubiquitous in the T20 landscape. It didn't matter that Mehidy, the batter, had played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's ODI series win over India and looked most comfortable in the first innings.

But for how long can such creative thinking shrink the room for bruising reality? Sunday will tell!

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
404 in 133.5 overs.
BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS
150 in 55.5 overs.
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
258/2 decl. in 61.4 overs.
BANGLADESH — 2ND INNINGS
Najmul Hossain c Pant b Umesh 67 *(156b, 7x4)*, Zakir Hasan c Kohli b Ashwin 100 *(224b, 13x4, 1x6)*, Yasir Ali b Axar 5 *(12b, 1x4)*, Litton Das c Umesh b Kuldeep 19 *(59b, 2x4)*, Mushfiqur Rahim b Axar 23 *(50b, 2x4)*, Shakib Al Hasan (batting) 40 *(69b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Nurul Hasan st. Pant b Axar 3 *(3b)*, Mehidy Hasan (batting) 9 *(40b, 2x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-1): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 102 overs): 272.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-124 (Najmul, 46.1 overs), 2-131 (Yasir, 49.6), 3-173 (Litton, 68.4), 4-208 (Zakir, 78.2), 5-234 (Mushfiqur, 87.1), 6-238 (Nurul, 87.6).
INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 15-3-46-0, Umesh 15-3-27-1, Ashwin 27-3-75-1, Axar 27-10-50-3, Kuldeep 18-2-69-1.

India women win Nation's Cup, seal Pro League berth

Press Trust of India
VALENCIA

India clinched the inaugural FIH Women's Nation's Cup title with a 1-0 win over Spain in the summit clash on Saturday. The triumph sealed India's berth in the 2023-24 Pro League.

Gurjit Kaur scored the all-important goal in the sixth minute from the penalty corner as the Commonwealth Games bronze medallists ended the eight-nation tournament with five wins on the trot.

The Janneke Schopman-coached side had beaten Ireland 2-1 via shootout in the semifinals on Friday.

By virtue of winning the Nations Cup, the Indian team has been promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Women's Pro League, a key event ahead of next year's Asian Games and 2024 Paris Olympics.

Panthers pip Paltan in engrossing final

The Dazzlers: Panthers painted the Pro Kabaddi League pink with an outstanding display. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau

A dominant all-round show powered Jaipur Pink Panthers to a thrilling 33-29 win against Puneri Paltan in the final of the ninth edition of the Pro Kabaddi League in Mumbai on Saturday. This is Panthers' second triumph after the win in the first edition in 2014. Paltan's raiders failed to step up in the absence of their star duo of Aslam Inamdar and Mohit Goyat, never managing to nose ahead of Panthers in this summit clash.

Panthers made a clean sweep of all honours – topping the league stage, having the best raider (Arjun Deshwal, with 296 points, also the season's Most Valuable Player) and the best defender (Ankush, 89 points).

ENOUGH!

Deschamps irked by queries on Benzema on eve of final

France manager Didier Deschamps expressed displeasure over persistent media queries regarding Karim Benzema re-joining the squad ahead of the final. Benzema left the French camp days ahead of its opener after picking up a thigh injury. It was reported that Benzema had started training with Real Madrid.

STAR ATTRACTION

Argentina's 'spider' man Alvarez, the pride of his village

Argentina's Julian Alvarez, nicknamed "Spider", is celebrated for his humility in his hometown of Calchin with billboards praising "Julian, the pride of Calchin," alongside depictions of large spiders. Alvarez was nicknamed the spider because of his ability to control a football and send it into the back of the net.

BOSS OF THE ORCHESTRA

The music starts when Messi has the ball, says FIFA's Wenger

FIFA's football development chief Arsene Wenger has praised "leader of the orchestra" Lionel Messi. "The boss of the orchestra is Messi and the music starts when he has the ball. I've seen him here in the middle of three players and he's like a guy with a lion in the circus. He tells the ball 'you listen to me, my friend, I'm the boss here.'"

BIG HONOUR

Deepika Padukone to escort trophy at the Lusail Stadium

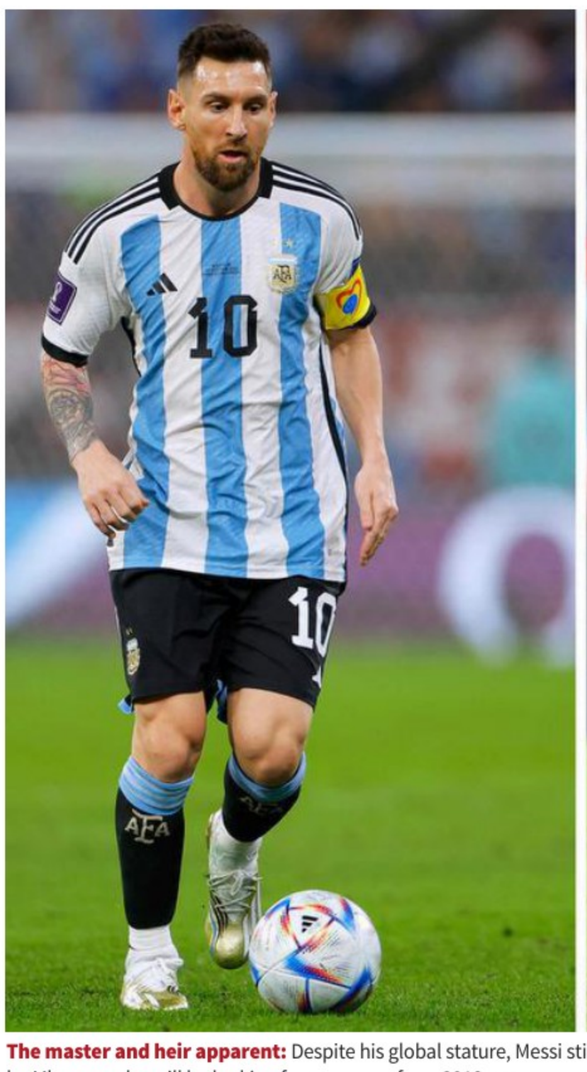
The World Cup trophy will arrive at the Lusail Stadium in a specially commissioned Louis Vuitton trunk, escorted by Indian actor Deepika Padukone and a member of France's 1998 or 2018 World Cup-winning teams. The trophy can only be touched and held by former winners of the FIFA World Cup and heads of state.

Will record-chasing France stop Messi from laying his hands on the holy grail?

The trio of Mbappe and Dembele down the wings and Griezmann through the middle holds the key for the defending champion while the South Americans will look to the fit-again Di Maria to exploit Theo Hernandez's defensive weakness

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA



The master and heir apparent: Despite his global stature, Messi still has to win the biggest trophy of them all and standing in his way will be Mbappe, who will be looking for an encore from 2018. AFP

The capital of this energy-rich thumb-shaped Gulf nation has often made you feel that you are on the (cleaner) streets of Mumbai or Kochi as Indians tend to outnumber everyone else around. And for a month, a vast majority of them, along with the 35,000 visiting Argentine fans, have turned this World Cup into a sacred tour of Lionel Messi.

His face adores most billboards and the neon buildings that light up the evening skies and every second person on the street wears a Messi jersey, while the rest rummage through the stores in Mushareib, Souk Waqif, Wakrah or Lusail to pick the last few available ahead of Argentina's final against France.

The Argentine captain has not disappointed his disciples as he has lit up the tournament with a sprinkling of sorcery – the goal against Australia, the no-look pass to Nahuel Molina or his toying of Croatian defender Josko Gvardiol in the semifinals. His greatness has been demonstrated throughout the tournament, but for Doha to build a permanent shrine for Messi, the final act of deliverance needs to arrive. A World Cup trophy from Lusail to truly establish his supremacy.

But France is chasing a record of its own – first back-to-back World titles since Pele and Garrincha's Brazil of 1958 and '62. And it, too, has a star in Kylian Mbappe, Messi's PSG teammate and fellow contender for the tournament's Golden Boot. Morocco tried and mostly succeeded in negating his threat by using right back Acharf Hakimi's pace and dribbling skills to trouble Theo Hernandez and break the chain of connection between the left-back and Mbappe.

But, Molina, Argentina's right-back, is a few steps slower and might find it difficult to match the success of the Moroccan. A move to a back-three for extra protection against Mbappe might prove detrimental for Lionel Scaloni's midfield balance and Argentina's chances of attacking the still shaky full-backs of France. A 4-3-3 formation with a fit-again Angel Di Maria brought in to exploit the defensive weaknesses of Hernandez might be Argentina's answer, while Alexis Mac Allister will play on the left and Rodrigo De Paul on the right with Enzo Fernandez, the only holding midfielder, looking to deal with Antonie Griezmann, the standout player for France. But with a largely immobile Messi, he has made 0.5 tackles on an average and has spent 5102m walking (Ivan Perisic is second with 4719m), a midfield three can end up offering too much space to Griezmann, who has made three assists and 3.5 key passes. Messi and Argentina, though, have found a tireless Julian Alvarez to do the running for the team's luminous star, falling back to press whenever Argentina loses the ball.

For Didier Deschamps, there's also the worry about a cold virus ravaging the camp. Dayot Upamecano missed the last game and now his excellent replacement Ibrahim Konate and the experienced Raphael Varane have missed training, casting doubts about their participation.

France, which ceded 61 percent possession to Morrocco, will continue to exploit its ability to hurt teams with quick transitions and has made the most direct attacks (23) in this World Cup, relying on the creativity and explosiveness of Ousman Dembele and Mbappe from the flanks.

Tactical flexibility

Marcos Acuna, available after serving his suspension, is expected to be reinstated as the left-back ahead of Nicolas Tagliafico to negate the threat of Dembele from the right. Scaloni will look at the workman-like tactical flexibility, emotional aggression of his team and the decisiveness of Messi's moments of magic to win this ultimate game against France.

Whoever wins – Messi or Mbappe, Argentina or France – the golden hues of the Lusail Stadium on the final Sunday of the 2022 World Cup can irrevocably establish its place as one of the iconic sporting venues of the world when history is created in its sweat-filled turfs.

The final begins at 8.30 p.m. IST.

Messi will be given special not sole focus, says Lloris

On the ball: Lloris is aware the support would be mostly Argentinian, but played down the importance of fanatical fans. AFP

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

The world may have billed this a Lionel Messi versus Kylian Mbappe final, but France captain Hugo Lloris says it would be foolish on his team's part to focus solely on the Argentine captain.

"I believe the event is too massive to focus on one player. It's a final between two big nations but when you play that type of a player [Messi], you need special focus. But Argentina is a tough team with a young generation of players dedicated to Leo Messi," Lloris said.

The French team has been bogged down by a cold virus since its quarterfinal win, with Kingsley Coman joining the likes of defender Dayot Upamecano and midfielder Adrien Rabiot in the sick bay. But Lloris or coach Didier Deschamps didn't have any updates on their recovery.

"I have no more news since last night about the players who were not feeling well. You will get more information after our training session. No one was expecting this, but we are focused on playing in a World Cup final," the captain said.

Both captain and coach are aware the support at the 89,000-seater Lusail Stadium would be predominantly Argentinian but played down the importance of fanatical fans in the final.

"We always have the support of our fans, and we know the French people are behind us and nothing else matters. We started this World Cup with an objective to go as far as we can and we are now in the final, four years after our last final and we will go all out to win it. We know what Messi means in the history of football, but we are also here to win," Lloris said.

Lonely in the middle

His coach was a little more forthcoming and said it could be lonely in the middle with the majority supporting the opposition. "I often get that feeling [being alone] and I am fine being alone, that doesn't bother me. These uncertainties always arise, but we are here, and we will be well prepared for the final against Argentina," Deschamps said.

Gvardiol, Orsic give Croatia third spot

On the podium: Croatia followed up its second-place finish in Russia with a bronze in Qatar. AFP

Reuters
DOHA

Croatia beat Morocco 2-1 in the World Cup third-place playoff on Saturday to leave Qatar on a high after again surpassing expectations following its run to the final in 2018.

Mislav Orsic's late first-half strike was enough to settle the contest after two early goals inside the first nine minutes set the tone for a pulsating encounter, Achraf Dari cancelling out Josko Gvardiol's opener for Croatia.

"This is bronze with a golden glow. We won a tough game," said Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic, who also led the nation of just four million people to a runner-up finish in Russia four years ago.

The result: Croatia 2 (Gvardiol 7, Orsic 42) bt Morocco 1 (Dari 9).

The numbers game

It will be the 11th World Cup final between a South American side and a European team. The former has triumphed seven times and the latter thrice. However, Europe's three wins have come in the last five meetings

- Argentina aims to become the first South American nation to win the World Cup since Brazil in 2002
- La Albiceleste face an European opponent in the summit clash for the fifth time (Netherlands: 1978; West Germany/Germany: 1986, 1990 and 2014)
- Argentina lost 0-1 in its last two appearances in the final (1990 and 2014)
- Argentina has netted 149 times in the World Cup and could become the third after Brazil (237) and Germany (232) to reach the landmark of 150.
- Argentina has lost only one of its last 42 matches (won 29, drawn 12)
- Messi's men have scored the opening goal in each of their six matches at Qatar
- Messi will overtake Lothar Matthaus (25) for record appearances in the World Cup when he plays in the final
- France has reached the final in four of the last seven editions
- Les Bleus have been successful in two of their previous three appearances in the final, losing on penalties to Italy in 2006 in the other
- The Frenchmen are unbeaten in the last 10 World Cup matches against South American nations (won 6, drawn 4). Their latest loss was in 1978 against Argentina
- France has eight clean sheets in its last nine Cup games against South American opponents
- Deschamps' men could become the third to win two successive World Cups after Italy (1934-1938) and Brazil (1958-1962)
- France has won 16 of its last 18 knockout ties (including one in a penalty shootout)
- France's Hugo Lloris is set to become the first goalkeeper to figure in 20 World Cup games
- Deschamps looks to become the second coach to win two World Cup crowns after Vittorio Pozzo who won in 1934 and 1938 with Italy

We have the greatest player of all time: Martinez

Ayon Sengupta
DOHA

Backing his captain: Martinez feels that Messi is in better form than he was during the Copa America triumph. REUTERS

Emiliano Martinez, Argentina's shootout hero from the quarterfinal victory over the Netherlands, has said that having the "greatest player of all time" in the team will help Argentina in the World Cup final against France.

"When we won the Copa America in Brazil, the favourite was Brazil, and now people say the French are the favourites. But we have a secret advantage, the greatest player of all time," Martinez said.

Speaking about Messi's impact, Martinez added: "I see him very happy. I saw a great Messi in the Copa America.

"It was quite difficult to improve on that Messi from Copa America, but he did it. He is excited, he is full of joy, and this helps us very much."

Argentine coach Lionel Scaloni played down the perceived battle between Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

"The game will be more of a collective effort and not individual effort. Mbappe is a great player, but France has many good players around him and that makes him an even better player," Scaloni said.

"The upcoming match would be Argentina against France and beyond Messi and Mbappe and the match will be defined by every player."

INBRIEF

Babar, Salman fifties lift Pakistan beyond 300

England dismissed Pakistan for 304 on the first day of the third and final Test of the series at Karachi's National Stadium on Saturday, with skipper Babar Azam and Agha Salman putting on defiant half-centuries. Babar hit a superb 78 at the top of the order while Salman made 56 later in the innings to take them to a respectable total as wickets fell regularly around them.

The scores: Pakistan 304 in 79 overs (Babar Azam 78, Agha Salman 56, Azhar Ali, 45; Leach 4/140) vs England 7/1 in 3 overs (Ben Duckett (batting) 4, Ollie Pope (batting) 3. **Toss**: Pakistan.

Sasikumar Mukund beats Seydina Andre, enters final

Top seed Sasikumar Mukund defeated Seydina Andre of Senegal 6-4, 6-1 in the semifinals of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Saturday. In the final, Sasikumar will be challenged by unseeded Martyn Pawelski of Poland.

Seto makes history at short course swimming Worlds

Japanese master Daiya Seto became the first swimmer ever to claim six straight World titles in the same event at a short course championships on Saturday. Seto, 28, won the 400m medley in 355.75s. It was the sixth consecutive time he has won gold, a feat never achieved before at either a short course or long course World championships. His first gold came in 2012. Australian pool queen Emma McKeon was also on fire, joining an elite club of just four sprinters to win the women's 50-100m freestyle double. She was always in charge to touch in 23.04, with Poland's Katarzyna Wasick left in her wake.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.50 a.m.

Kolkata 25K Marathon: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6 a.m. onwards

Bangladesh vs India: 1st Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9 a.m.

Pakistan vs England: 3rd Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 p.m.

FIFA World Cup 2022: (final): Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 p.m.

Ashwin Datta scorches the track; Kyle scores a double

The former, who started on pole, wards off the challenge from his teammates to take the chequered flag; the latter dominates the JK Tyre Novice Cup but rues missing a hat-trick

MOTORSPORTS

Rayan Rozario
COIMBATORE

Dark Don Racing's Ashwin Datta played it cool on a hot day to finish on top in the premier race for Formula LGB4 cars in the final round of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship at the KMS circuit here on Saturday.

Team Dark Don Racing further rejoiced as Tijil Rao and Arya Singh took the other two spots on the podium.

Ashwin started on pole and was quick to open up a lead. He was challenged by his teammates but managed to keep a steady pace right through to emerge the winner. It was an incident-filled race but that did not stop the Chennai star from calling the shots.

"I had a clean race and kept my position intact from the start. All I had to do was to maintain the pace," said Ashwin after the race.

He was not pleased though as there was no big challenge from the other big boys in fray. "I would have enjoyed if it was tough. This one was probably the easiest this season," he said.

Clean sweep: Dark Don Racing's Ashwin Datta, centre, Tijil Rao, left, and Arya Singh finished on the podium. S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Fingers crossed

But Ashwin has to keep his fingers crossed as he has been called by the stewards for a racing incident.

Chennai's Kyle Kumaran (DTS Racing) shot back in style clinching a double in the JK Tyre Novice Cup. "I would have been happy if I had won the third as well," said Kyle, who crashed out midway through the third race.

The results (Provisional, day one):

JK Tyre Novice Cup: Race 1: Kyle Kumaran 15:22.954; 2. Vinith Kumar; 3. Joel Joseph (all from DTS Racing).

Race 2: 1. Kyle Kumaran 15:19.624; 2. Vinith Kumar; 3. Joel Joseph.

Race 3: 1. Vinith Kumar 15:28.406; 2. Dhruv Goswami (MSport); 3. Joel Joseph.

JK Tyre RE Continental GT Cup: Race 1: 1. Allwin Xavier (Thrissur) 13:13.747; 2. Sudheer Sudhakar (Delhi); 3. P.M. Soorya (Chennai).

Formula LGB4: Race 1: Ashwin Datta (Dark Don Racing); 2. Tijil Rao (Dark Don Racing); Arya Singh (Dark Don Racing).

It's Salento vs Dyf

HYDERABAD: Salento and Dyf should fight out the finish of the Golconda 2000 Guineas, the main attraction of Sunday's (Dec. 18) races here.

1 NEXT MOVE PLATE (1,600m), rated up to 25 (Cat. III) - 1.15 p.m.: 1. Call Of The Blue (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Honourable Lady (8) Santosh Raj 60, 3. Janasu (1) Mohit Singh 60, 4. My Way Or Highway (7) Mukesh Kumar 60, 5. Survivor (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 6. Good Day (5) R.S. Jodha 59, 7. I Am Superman (2) B. Nikhil 59 and 8. Ella Eldingar (6) Aneel 57.5.
1. MY WAY OR HIGHWAY, 2. CALL OF THE BLUE, 3. SURVIVOR

2 STEP ASIDE PLATE (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 2-y-o only (Cat. II) - 1.45: 1. Bleue Dali (4) Akshay Kumar 56, 2. N R I Skylab (9) Antony Raj S 56, 3. Rising Tycoon (8) Md. Ismail 56, 4. Shadow Of The Moon (1) D.S. Deora 56, 5. Siddharth (5) Ashad Asbar 56, 6. Smart Boy (7) B.R. Kumar 56, 7. Flashing Memories (6) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 8. Planet Super (3) Aneel 54.5 and 9. Reigning Beauty (2) Afroz Khan 54.5.
1. RISING TYCOON, 2. BLEUE DALI, 3. N R I SKYLAB

3 VIKARABAD CUP (DIV. II) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 2.15: 1. Bangor On Dee (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Garnet (1) Sonu Kumar 58, 3. Divine Connection (2) R.S. Jodha 56.5, 4. Stay Smart (6) B. Nikhil 55, 5. Coming Home (7) D.S. Deora 53, 6. Nucleus (9) Mohit Singh 52.5, 7. Sucker Punch (8) P. Sai Kumar 52.5, 8. Star Cruise (4) Kuldeep S 52 and 9. Hot Seat (5) Uday Kiran 50.5.
1. GARNET, 2. BANGOR ON DEE, 3. DIVINE CONNECTION

4 THE 1 EME CENTRE ROLLING TROPHY (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) - 2.45: 1. True Icon (4) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Hoping Cloud (7) Mohit Singh 59, 3. Just Incredible (5) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 4. Despang (6) Surya Prakash 57, 5. Nightmare (2) Sonu Kumar 57, 6. Wallop And Gallop (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57, 7. Advance Guard (1) Kuldeep S 55.5 and 8. Team Player (3) Afroz Khan 51.5.
1. JUST INCREDIBLE, 2. HOPING CLOUD, 3. TRUE ICON

5 SANGAM PLATE (1,400m) Maiden, 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 3.15: 1. Ivanhoe (1) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Acrobat (7) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57, 3. Clefairy (6) Akshay Kumar 57, 4. Nishaan (3) Mohit Singh 55, 5. Exclusive Luck (4) Md. Ismail 54.5, 6. Role Model (2) Gaurav Singh 53.5, 7. Saint Emilion (8) B.R. Kumar 53 and 8. Swiss Girl (5) B. Nikhil 53.
1. CLEFAIRY, 2. ACROBAT, 3. IVANHOE

6 VIKARABAD CUP (DIV. I) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 3.45: 1. Above The Law (8) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Different (1) B. Nikhil 58, 3. Cabello (4) Ajay Kumar 56.5, 4. Pedro Planet (6) Md. Ekram Alam 55.5, 5. Vision Of Rose (3) B.R. Kumar 54, 6. Gusty Note (9) Santosh Raj 53, 7. Thunder Road (7) Gaurav Singh 52.5, 8. Samrat (5) Mohit Singh 52 and 9. Sea Of Class (2) Surya Prakash 50.5.
1. CABELLO, 2. ABOVE THE LAW, 3. GUSTY NOTE

7 GOLCONDA 2000 GUINEAS (Gr. 2) (1,600m) (Terms), 3-y-o only - 4.15: 1. All Attraction (7) Srinath 57, 2. Arthur (3) Yash Narredu 57, 3. Dyf (6) P.S. Chouhan 57, 4. Kancha (4) Akshay Kumar 57, 5. Keep Faith (1) Aneel 57, 6. La Mirage (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57, 7. Salento (5) Antony Raj S 57 and 8. True Marshal (2) Ashad Asbar 57.
1. SALENTO, 2. DYF, 3. TRUE MARSHAL

8 VIKARABAD CUP (DIV. III) (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) - 4.45: 1. Malibu (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Bellaque (7) B. Nikhil 57, 3. Silk (8) Antony Raj S 56, 4. Lights On (9) R.S. Jodha 54, 5. Deccan Ranger (2) Santosh Raj 53, 6. Sorry Darling (1) P. Ajeeth Kumar 52.5, 7. Precious Gift (6) Ajay Kumar 52, 8. Delhi Heights (5) Surya Prakash 50 and 9. Muaser (4) P. Sai Kumar 50.
1. SILK, 2. MALIBU, 3. BELLAQUE

Day's Best: **CLEFAIRY**

Jackpot : 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5. (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Manu's title-winning spree continues

GOLF

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Manu Gandas' sizzling season continued as he won a sixth title, clinching the inaugural S.S.P. Chawrasia Invitational crown, at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club on Saturday. Manu's four-under 68 in the fourth and final round saw him finish with a total of 13-under 275 (69-66-72-68) and claim his seventh career win.

Manu's outstanding show helped him overcome the challenge of Anirban Lahiri and Gaganjeet Bhullar, who finished second and third respectively. The triumph in the penultimate event of the season saw Manu get richer by ₹15,00,000.

Lahiri's two-under 70 on the final day wasn't enough to keep him in contention for the title and he took the runner-up spot with an 11-under 277 (71-65-71-70). Gaganjeet Bhullar (69-72-67-71) produced a final round of 71 to finish third at nine-under 279.

Yuvraj Singh Sandhu tied for 25th place with a four-over 292 and slipped to second in the PGTI rankings behind Manu who took a significant lead.

Manu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shamrock wins Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas

BENGALURU: S. Narredu trained Shamrock (Suraj Narredu up) won the Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas, the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Dec. 17). The winner is owned by Mr. M. Ravi, Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal and Mrs. R. Chellam. Jockey Sandesh and trainer S. Padmanabhan won three races each on the day.

Suraj Narredu kept his colt confidently second for a while and then third till the bend before manoeuvring his mount from outside in the home stretch. Shamrock responded tremendously to the reminders and overtook the leader Siege Courageous passing the last 300m and won resolutely.

THE RESULTS

1. SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45: **ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL** (Sandesh) 1, Oxytocin (L.A. Rozario) 2, The King N I (Likith Appu) 3 and Ultimate Chance (Rayan) 4. Not run: Golden Ring and Empress Bella. 10, Hd and 2. 1m 05.85s (record time). Rs. 17 (w), 11, 84 and 14 (p), SHP: 315, THP: 42, FP: 615, Q: 460, Trinella: 1,093 and 315, Exacta: 61,881 (carried over). Favourite: Isnt She Beautiful.

Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala and M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

2. SUTLEJ PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25: **TURKOMAN** (Sandesh) 1, Speed Seven (L.A. Rozario) 2, Rule Of Law (Darshan) 3 and Love (M. Prabhakaran) 4. 5, 3-1/4 and 1. 1m 54.19s. Rs. 15 (w), 14 and 15 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 29, FP: 29, Q: 37, Trinella: 152 and 104, Exacta: 275 and 185. Favourite: Turkoman.

Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad and M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Padmanbhan.

3. SIR CHARLES TODHUNTER MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45: **THE RESPONSE** (Sai Kiran) 1, Tripitaka (B.L. Paswan) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Kiran Rai) 3 and Star Admiral (L.A. Rozario) 4. Not run: The Golden Dream. 3-1/2, 1-1/2 and Shd. 1m 07.18s. Rs. 81 (w), 23, 15 and 22 (p), SHP: 50, THP: 62, FP: 355, Q: 208, Trinella: 1,283 and 717, Exacta: 6,848 and 2,762. Favourite: Forty Niner.

Owner: Mr. Dinesh Kumar K. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

4. D.M. SHIVASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65: **DOUGLAS** (Srinath) 1, Prague (Trevor) 2, Only You (Sandesh) 3 and Scribbling Hopper (S. Shareef) 4. Not run: Angel Bliss. Lnk, 3-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m 37.11s. Rs. 36 (w), 17 and 14 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 34, FP: 82, Q: 33, Trinella: 119 and 71, Exacta: 458 and 509. Favourite: Prague.

Owners: Mr. Kishore M. Dingra, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mr. Prakash Babu. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

5. WOLF 777 BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o colts, (Terms): **SHAMROCK** (Excellent Art - Nora) Suraj 1, King Louis (Win Legend - Georgina) Srinath 2, Last Wish (Top Class - Marilyn) P.S. Chouhan 3 and Disruptor (Western Aristocrat - Waveband) Darshan 4. 3-1/2, 2-1/2 and Lnk. 1m 37.38s. Rs. 18 (w), 11, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 41, FP: 54, Q: 36, Trinella: 157 and 72, Exacta: 1,420 and 934. Favourite: Shamrock.

Owners: Mr. M. Ravi, Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr. K. Kaliyaperumal and Mrs. R. Chellam. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. KITTY BANK PLATE (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **DEL MAR** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Skyfire (Srinath) 2, Fernet Branca (Antony) 3 and Flying Quest (Likith Appu) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and 1/2. 1m 12.42s. Rs. 24 (w), 13, 25 and 12 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 32, FP: 141, Q: 63, Trinella: 201 and 67, Exacta: 504 and 342. Favourite: Del Mar.

Owner and trainer: Mr. K. Pradeep Annaiah.

7. DECEMBER PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **SPLENDIDO** (Sandesh) 1, Always Happy (Antony) 2, El Alamein (Rayan) 3 and Dr Logan (Vaibhav) 4. 2, 7 and Hd. 1m 25.35s Rs. 13 (w), 11, 17 and 35 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 73, FP: 50, Q: 39, Trinella: 294 and 302, Exacta: 1,070 and 392. Favourite: Splendido.

Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP and Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala. Trainer: S. Padmanbhan.

Jackpot: Rs. 4,950 (41 tkts).

Runner-up: 1,641 (53 tkts).

Treble (i): 814 (seven tkts); (ii): 51 (277 tkts).

Triumphant: Shamrock (Suraj Narredu up) winner of the Wolf 777 Bangalore 2000 Guineas, led by owners Daulat Chhabria and K. Kaliyaperumal (second right), and trainer S Narredu (right) at the Bangalore Turf Club. K. MURALI KUMAR

India claims a third successive world title

On Cloud Nine: The triumphant Indian team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BLIND CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Centuries by Sunil Ramesh and captain Ajay Kumar Reddy guided India past Bangladesh by 120 runs in the final of the third T20 World Cup for the Blind at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday. India claimed a third successive world title.

Bangladesh received a cash prize of ₹1, 50,000 while India won ₹3,00,000.

The score (final):

India 277/2 in 20 overs (Sunil Ramesh 136 n.o., Ajay Kumar Reddy 100 n.o.) bt Bangladesh 157/3 in 20 overs (Salman 77 n.o.). **Man of the series: B3 category:** Sunil Ramesh (India); B2: Ajay Kumar Reddy (India); **B1:** Mohammed Mahmud (Bangladesh).

Head puts Australia in charge against S. Africa

SA IN AUSTRALIA

Agence France-Presse
BRISBANE

An aggressive Travis Head put Australia in charge at the end of the first day of the opening Test against South Africa here on Saturday.

After bowling out the visitors for 152 on the stroke of tea, Head came to the crease with the Australian score a precarious 27 for three.

But on a wicket that all batters found difficult to score on, Head looked a different class, smashing an unbeaten 78 off just 77 deliveries.

At the close Australia was 145 for five after night-watchman Scott Boland was dismissed off the last ball of the day.

Australia captain Pat Cummins earlier won the toss and chose to bowl on a green wicket under cloudy skies. The decision was vindicated after a stunning start when South Africa was reduced to 27 for four after 11 overs, a position from which they never recovered.

Counterattack: Head sends Rabada to the boundary during his rescue act. AFP

Defiant batters

The only batters to defy the Australian attack were wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne, top-scorer with 64, and No. 4 Temba Bavuma, who rescued the visitors from complete annihilation. Australia's reply started disastrously when David Warner fell first ball, deflecting a brutal Kagiso Rabada short ball to short-leg, where Zondo took a spectacular catch.

The scores: South Africa 152 in 48.2 overs (Temba Bavuma 38, Kyle Verreynne 64; Mitchell Starc 3/41, Nathan Lyon 3/14) vs Australia 145/5 in 33.1 overs (Steve Smith 36, Travis Head 78 batting). **Toss:** Australia.

Danish Farooq's strike takes Bengaluru past Jamshedpur

ISL-9

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

An early Danish Farooq strike was enough to give Bengaluru FC (BFC) a 1-0 win over Jamshedpur FC (JFC) in the Indian Super League (ISL) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday.

The win took BFC to eighth place.

The home crowd was overjoyed in the fifth minute when BFC went ahead. Roy Krishna sprinted down the right flank before curling an early ball towards Farooq.

The midfielder took a touch before dispatching it past the keeper at the near post from the edge of the box.

Opportunities came at both ends of the pitch, with BFC rattling the woodwork on a couple of occasions.

The difference maker: Bengaluru's Danish Farooq, centre, is hemmed in by Jamshedpur players. K. MURALI KUMAR

BFC's Javi Hernandez came close to increasing the lead on a few occasions.

In the second half, Hernandez's shot was saved by JFC goalkeeper Vishal Yadav.

Moments later, the Spaniard fired another attempt from a similar position and hit the post.

BFC's Roy Krishna took a low shot at the far post which was deflected for a corner.

For JFC, Ishan Pandita received a few good chances, but failed to convert.

The host made just a solitary change that saw Parag Shrivas coming in for Prabir Das. For JFC, Pratik Chaudhari replaced the suspended Peter Hartley.

The results: Bengaluru FC 1 (Danish Farooq 5) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.

Goa 2 (Edu Bedia 10, Iker Guarrotxena 20) bt NorthEast United 1 (Wilmar Jordan 90+5 pen).

INBRIEF

Former AC Milan and Bologna manager Mihajlovic no more

Sinisa Mihajlovic, who played for and coached numerous Italian Serie A teams, passed away in Rome on Friday after a long battle with cancer. Mihajlovic was sacked as manager of Serie A club Bologna in September after it failed to record a win in its first five league matches.

The Serbian had become Bologna manager for the second time in 2019 and had been in charge while battling a severe form of leukaemia.

Ramiz could be removed as PCB chief after England Tests

Ramiz Raja could be removed as chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board after the National team's back-to-back Test defeats to England at home, according to sources. "Yes, something is going on definitely. Rumours are strong that Najam Sethi who recently met the Prime Minister in Lahore might be asked to replace Ramiz as PCB chairman," said a former PCB member.

Ramiz has been PCB chairman since September 2021 and was nominated by former premier Imran Khan.

Under the Board constitution, the prime minister nominates candidates for the post of chairman and one of them is then elected by the board of governors.

Chinese tennis player Zheng gets nine-month ban

Chinese tennis player Baoluo Zheng has been banned for nine months after admitting that he attempted to fix a match, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said. "The 21-year-old player approached an opponent and offered money in return for deliberately losing a match at a tournament in Egypt in October 2022," the agency said in a statement. Baoluo was also fined $5,000 though $2,000 is suspended.

Do not think too much about workload, Ishant to youngsters

Tells budding pacemen to keep bowling as much as possible to avoid breaking down; 'Only if you are used to bowling 25 overs in the nets daily can you bowl 20 overs in a Ranji game', says one of only two India pacers with 100 Test caps

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

While most of his teammates boarded Saturday's early morning flight to Guwahati for Delhi's next Ranji Trophy stop, Ishant Sharma returned home on Friday night due to "a soft tissue damaged while stretching with the second new ball".

Ishant, one of only two India pacers to have earned 100-plus Test caps, opened up on a range of issues about his career after Delhi's sorry loss to Maharashtra in the Ranji opener. *Excerpts:*

The secret of a pacer playing 100 Tests

Do not think too much about "workload". That's a term that's come up in recent times, especially for fast bowlers.

I never saw anything like that during my international stint.

When I started playing, my coach would give me the ball at one in the afternoon and we would go on till sunset.

That's how I could bowl long spells in the Ranji and later on for India. If you want to improve, the only thing you can do is keep bowling.

Are Indian pacers overprotected or do they avoid playing domestic games unless absolutely necessary?

If you have made your name through domestic cricket, you should not be selective about the games you play.

Only when you have played a sizeable amount of cricket for the country can you be given the occasional break.

Most pacers break down during Ranji games because they don't go through the ideal preparation.

If you want to prepare to last a whole Ranji season and bowl 20 overs a day, you cannot prepare for it by taking breaks. Only if you are used to bowling 25 overs in the nets daily can you bowl 20 overs in a game.

Where do you see your cricket journey heading?

I don't really think about the future. I am just enjoying my cricket right now. That's why I played all three formats this domestic season.

I am not putting myself under the pressure of "I want to make a comeback". I have left all these things out of my mind. As long as I am passionate about the game, I will keep playing.

Does that mean you have achieved all that you wanted at the highest level?

Not really! It's not that I don't want to go back there and play, but I have stopped chasing anything.

Wherever I am playing, I will give my 100%, but will not expect to be picked in the (national) team when I do well.

I have started enjoying myself on the field and helping out youngsters whenever I can.

Pleasure of playing: Ishant says he will keep playing as long as he is passionate about the game. FILE PHOTO

Mohammedan Sporting overcomes Real Kashmir

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Mohammedan Sporting Club defeated Real Kashmir FC 1-0 while Churchill Brothers FC Goa was held to a 0-0 draw by RoundGlass Punjab FC in the Hero I-League on Friday.

A powerful volley from captain Marcus Joseph in the 57th minute proved enough for the host in the match where Sporting's Safiul Rahaman and Real Kashmir's Yakubu Wadudu were shown the red card late in the second-half here.

The result took Churchill's tally to nine points from eight matches as it remained in ninth place. RoundGlass now has 14 points, two less than leader Sreenidi Deccan but with a game on hand.

At Aizawl on Saturday, Lalchhanhima Sailo scored a brace as Aizawl FC inflicted a 4-0 defeat on Kenkre FC.

After Sailo struck twice (14th, 25th) in the first half, substitutes David Lalhlansanga (47th) and Jeremy Laldinpuia (68th) found the target in the second to seal the rout.

AITA adds three international tournaments in 2023 first quarter

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has added three $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournaments in Haryana, in February 2023, to its packed international calendar. The first two women's tournaments will be held at the Joygaon Academy in Jhajjar, in the fortnight starting February 6.

The third tournament will be held at the Tennis Project in Gurugram from February 20.

Before these three events, the women will have two $40,000 events in Bhopal and Pune from January 16 and 23 respectively.

The women already have a $25,000 tournament in Solapur this week, which will be followed by a $25,000 event in Navi Mumbai, and the $15,000 event in Gwalior over the following fortnight.

AITA secretary-general Anil Dhupar has also announced three $25,000 ITF men's events in March, in Delhi, Lucknow and Davangere, which are yet to find their place in the ITF calendar. AITA has already listed eight ITF junior tournaments in Chandigarh, Delhi, Kolkata, Indore, Gurugram, Dehradun, Bhilai and Madurai in the first quarter of next year.

As already planned, there will be three Challenger tournaments for men in Chennai, Bengaluru and Pune, after the season kicks off with the Tata Maharashtra Open ATP event in Pune on January 2.

Anirban Lahiri happy with LIV Golf experience despite the 'ostracism'

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Leading Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri says professional golf is going through a transition following the introduction of LIV Golf and people need to be patient at the moment.

Lahiri, who finished second in the inaugural S.S.P. Chawrasia Invitational tournament at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club course on Saturday, is pleased with his experience with LIV Golf so far and has his views about the venture attracting criticism.

Par for the course: The criticism against LIV is because of what it is attempting — new format, big change, says Lahiri. .AFP

Invalid

"LIV Golf has been very black and white with what they are attempting. New format, big change, hence big disruption. With that comes negativity. Nobody likes disruption," Lahiri told *The Hindu*.

"Being a part of LIV, we feel a bit ostracized. Most of the criticism is invalid. Some of them are (valid), I understand. There is a lot of criticism against the other side, too, but nobody wants to talk about that...

"In four-five years, if LIV Golf becomes like a T20 format and people start enjoying it, then it will be a completely different story... Professional golf is in a transition phase and everybody needs to be patient and mature in handling the situation."

Lahiri said it had been difficult for him to move base from the USA to Dubai last month. "I have wanted to move back to India for several years. But given my schedule, how much I need to travel and having (two) young children, Dubai was the ideal in-between."

The ace golfer, whose tied-fifth in the 2015 PGA Championship stands as the best finish by an Indian at a Major, said he would compete in 20 to 24 events, primarily in LIV Golf and Asian Tour and sporadically in the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), in a year.

"I got a call from SSP about a month ago. He is hosting his first invitational and is a dear friend. So I wanted to support him regardless of what my plans were," he said.

Even though PGTI has its limitations, Lahiri said, golfers emerging from the 'honing ground' would look to become successful internationally.

Santosh Trophy revamp, Indians-only II division league will broaden elite talent pool: AIFF

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The move to disallow foreigners in the second division league and the revamp of Santosh Trophy will broaden the talent pool for selection to the national team, AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey said.

The AIFF executive committee in September took the decision to restrict second division league to Indian players while the national federation signed an MoU with its Saudi Arabian counterpart to stage the final stages of the Santosh Trophy in West Asian country.

"There is a dearth of top Indian players in key positions as these are all occupied by foreigners in the ISL and I-League. Hence, this move will help in opening the path for more Indians to hone their skills at this level," Chaubey said in the 2022 Review e-Magazine of the AIFF.

"We are confident that this, along with our focus on the inter-state senior championship, the Santosh Trophy, will help throw up a larger pool of talent for the selection of the national squad."

The second division league will have 15 teams from across the country, plus the reserve teams from the ISL and I-League teams, with the final rounds being played on a home-away basis. The earlier provision of having a certain number of under-22 players in the squad will no longer be mandatory from this season.

The Santosh Trophy will be competed among 32 states, while the semifinals, third-place playoff and the final will be in either in Jeddah or Riyadh. "That gives over 100 players and coaching staff experience and opportunity to travel abroad and play in international facilities."

Chaubey said another important decision taken by the new executive committee was the promotion of I-League winners to the ISL, subject to fulfilling the club licensing criteria.

Tiger Woods limping in a tournament he would not dare miss

PNC CHAMPIONSHIP

Associated Press
ORLANDO

Tiger Woods and his 13-year-old son shared something else in common in the PNC Championship. Both were limping. Only one of them was in a cart.

"His ankle is not exactly ... well, it's better than mine," Woods said, referring to son Charlie rolling his ankle. It's just the way it goes, just kind of bad timing on it. But we'll be ready come game time tomorrow." This is one tournament Woods – Tiger or Charlie – was not about to miss. That starts with the father, who shattered his right leg in a February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles and now has plantar fasciitis in his right foot that forced him to withdraw from his Hero World Challenge two weeks ago.

He would have had to walk in the Bahamas. The PNC Championship, which pairs major champions with a family member, is sanctioned by PGA Tour Champions. That means he is allowed to ride a cart.

But that could come at a cost. Asked if playing the 36-hole tournament that starts Saturday could set him back, Woods replied, "Yes." "You know, I don't really care about that," he said. "I think being there with and alongside my son is far more important."

Going forward, Woods isn't sure what to expect.

"I'm supposed to be resting this thing and stretching and letting it heal. But I'm not doing that at the moment."

Woods. AFP

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Soundarya IMS and NMKRV clinch the overall titles

Soundarya Institute of Management & Science won the men's overall championship in the 57th Bangalore University inter-collegiate athletics championships.

NMKRV College for Women won the women's overall championship.

The results (winners):

Men: 100m: V. Shashikanth (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science) 10.67s; **Pole vault:** S. Pratap (Surana College South End) 2.40m; **Half marathon:** M. Ajay (University College of Physical Education) 1:20:24.2s; **20km walk:** Deepak Prabhu (Bangalore Institute of Management Studies) 2:26:20s; **Shot put:** Basavaraj (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science) 11.31m; **Decathlon:** S. Pratap (Surana College South End) 4322 points; **3,000m steeplechase:** Satyendra Singh (Surana College, Peenya) 10:25.1s; **Triple jump:** M. Srinivas (University College of Physical Education) 12.09m; 5,000m: P. Shivaji (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science) 15:12.08s; **400m hurdles:** Rakshith Ravindra (KLE Society) 56.91s.

Women: 100m: S. Arpitha (GT Institute of Management Studies & Research) 12.88s; **Pole vault:** Sindhu Shree (G. Kempegowda Institute of Management) 3.4m; **Half-Marathon:** H.S. Smbika (University College of Physical Education) 1:57:33.0s; **20km walk:** Tapsi (Darshan College) 2:14:43.3s; **3,000m steeplechase:** H.M. Harshitha (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science) 12:26.9s; **Triple jump:** K. Surabhi (Sheshadipuram Academy of Business Studies) 7.48m; **Heptathlon:** H.V. Shalini (University College of Physical Education) 1407 points; **Discus:** T.V. Kavitha (University College of Physical Education) 22.09m; **400m hurdles:** Bhavya (Karunya First Grade College) 1:27.85s; **5,000m:** Basaralingamma (Soundarya Institute of Management & Science) 23:29.2s.

Overall championship: Men: Soundarya Institute of Management & Science; **Women:** NMKRV College for Women.

One for the album: The winners of the KSLTA ATF Junior Tour 22 (u-14) tennis tournament. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Double for Maaya

Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi claimed a double in the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis (KSLTA) ATF Junior Tour 22 (under-14) tournament, which concluded on Saturday.

The results (finals):

Boys: Singles: Levin Safoor Mydeen bt Showrya Samala 6-2, 6-2; Doubles: Rudra Batham & Prakaash Sarran bt Levin Safoor Mydeen & Showrya Samala 6-4, 6-0. **Girls: Singles:** Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi bt Diya Ramesh 6-4, 6-1; **Doubles:** Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi & Sniggdha Ruhil bt Aleena Farid & Aradhyaa Verma 6-3, 3-6, 10-5.